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KASRA
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Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENTS

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

It's July 2021 and what a difference

a year makes. At this time last year, we were dealing with a global health crisis unlike anything we had experienced before. Stay at home orders were in place for some of us, restaurants, bars, gyms and countless other businesses were either closed completely or operating in a limited, contactless basis. We were told not to travel and to avoid visiting friends or family due to the risk of contracting or transmitting the deadly COVID-19 virus. There was no vaccine, and the only thing for certain was tens of millions more people would become infected and millions more would die around the world. The numbers are startling. A coronavirus that apparently didn't exist until late 2019 has, within a year and a half, infected more than 175 million people around the world, including 3.9 million fatalities, with 34.3 million reported cases and over 600,000 deaths in the U.S. alone.

Fortunately, help began arriving in December 2020, allowing for a gradual return to what we think of as normal. Through an extraordinary public/private collaboration, several highly effective vaccines were developed in a matter of months which is truly unprecedented. As of this writing, over 2.1 billion doses have been administered globally, with over 460 million people being fully vac-

inated. In the U.S., over 300 million doses have been administered and 140 million Americans are fully vaccinated, and the numbers are increasing daily. Businesses are reopening, life is returning to a more normal state and, most importantly, we are once again able to have in person contact with the friends and loved ones that, in many cases, were off limits to us for more than a year.

Another piece of good news came in the form of this year's letter from the Board of Trustees of the Kaiser VEBA announcing a benefit of \$5,000 per family unit for 2021. This benefit represents a \$1000 increase compared to the 2020 benefit and is the highest amount ever provided in the VEBA's 17 years of existence. A strong rebound in financial markets in the second half of last year resulted in significant growth in the value of Trust assets allowing for the increase in the benefit. Over 2,200 VEBA members are currently receiving benefits through the Trust.

Midyear also means it's time for our annual membership drive. We are thankful for the support of the thousands of Kaiser retirees and surviving spouses over the years. As we announced in our previous letter, the KASRA newsletter will end sometime in the second half of 2022 and the Association will be dissolved. The KASRA Board has begun planning for both events. To help make the process as smooth as possible, we ask that members renew their membership this year, which will be the last re-

(President's Message, continued Page 9)

WHAT'S GOING ON

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

Cliff Rider (San Ramon, CA) shows the Kaiser Foil he's about to run out of. "Such memories = our beloved Foil Division and my last two boxes," he said.

Ange Ploussard (Chapin, SC), surviving spouse of **Marion Ploussard**, is now 90 years old and loves reading the KASRA Newsletter. Following a stroke in December, she moved in with her daughter Amy. **Alda Almeida** (Bristol, RI) writes she's like a Timex Watch – still ticking!

Retirement certainly hasn't slowed down **Joseph D. Cadwallader** (Spokane, WA). A former worker at the Mead Plant, he and his wife **Maria** began holding Sunday services in nursing/care centers around Spokane. Maria was licensed with the Assemblies of God, and Joseph was ordained with the World Bible Way. For five years, they conducted three services



Steve and Wendy Ping standing in the Little Colorado River, which is colored sky blue because of its high calcium carbonate content.



Cliff Rider shows his last two boxes of Kaiser's Aluminum Foil.

every Sunday. "We were named "We Care Ministries," through which 15 old age care and nursing centers were provided with weekly "church services" in addition to personal visits," said Joseph.

The two formed a 501(c)3 religious charity and were soon joined by 37 others. Health issues forced the Cadwalladers to reduce their activities, and an auto accident in 2015 necessitated a move to assisted living. "It was extremely good for both of us," Joseph said, who lost Maria in July of 2020.

"After long consideration, I've decided to spend my summers in beautiful eastern Washington and my winters in much warmer Texas. Serious travel has been out of the question for the last seven years, but now the travel brochures are starting to arrive and I'm developing my bucket list."

Seldon W. Angus (Sandyville, WV) is still busy mowing yards and volunteering at the Sandyville Senior Center. While COVID has stopped any traveling, he's still busy "trying to keep up with my 15 great grandchildren"!

(What's Going On, from Page 2)

Traveling Near and Far . . .

CFT retiree, **Steve Ping** (Denver, CO), and his wife, Wendy, recently spent 15 days rafting 282 miles of Colorado River through the entire Grand Canyon. Steve summarized the trip as follows: “The six rafting guides were highly experienced and very knowledgeable. The paying participants, all vaccinated for the COVID virus, were diverse and interesting. We had spectacular weather for May, and the food was ample and delicious. The many side canyon hikes were challenging and great fun. And no one fell out of a raft through the many dozens of exciting and wet rapids! It was a geologist’s dream trip and a photographer’s nightmare (because of the constantly changing, spectacular scenery). Yes, we slept on the ground in a tent and, no, we were not the oldest ones on the trip!”

Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

Congratulations to **Anita (Hall) Parker** (Fairfield, CA), who turned 100 years-young April 1! Anita worked in Industrial Chemicals, retiring in 1986. She has twin great granddaughters who turn four-years-old this year. “They are the light of



Anita Parker enjoying a night out with her family last Christmas.

my life,” she said. “I still drive and love golf. But now I watch the game rather than play!” She says “hi” to all her Kaiser friends.

Best Wishes . . .

Condolences to **Paul Richard Hilleman** (Golden, CO), whose wife Elaine passed away March 26, 2021. Our best wishes also go to the family of **Myria Walty**, surviving spouse of **John Walty**. Myria passed away March 3, 2021.



Oared rafts on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. Steve and Wendy Ping were in the front of the rear raft.

MEMBER PROFILE: GEOFF SMITH

Geoff Smith (Fort Myers, FL) began working for Kaiser in 1967 and retired in 2001. Geoff and his wife Susan have four children and seven grandchildren. Geoff and Susan live in South West Florida.

What were your earliest memories of the aluminum industry?

I feel as though I've been involved with aluminum my entire life. Born in Mandeville, Jamaica, the dirt in the playground was red and provided a challenge for my mother to wash the red stains out of my clothes. At the time, I didn't know that the red dirt was bauxite, the aluminum bearing ore used to make aluminum commercially. Little did I realize when still just "knee high to a grasshopper" that I would spend most of my life "washing the red out" of the dirt in the production of aluminum.

After the War, Henry J. Kaiser acquired

the Baton Rouge Alumina Refinery in Louisiana and needed a source of Bauxite ore for the plant. In 1950, he started a bauxite mining operation on the South Coast of Jamaica. My wife's father, Dr Jim Lee, was the geologist who did most of the exploration for bauxite on the island. Susan, my wife, met Henry when she was a young girl, and she still remembers his bald head, plaid shorts and dark glasses. Henry always traveled the island in a Kaiser manufactured Jeep and often with Donald "Dusty" Rhoades, Kaiser's president at the time. Two of Jamaica's ports are named after them: Port Kaiser (South Coast) and Port Rhoades (North Coast).

Where did you go to school?

I did my schooling in Jamaica until the age of 15. Then I went to high school and university in England where I received a degree in chemical engineering. In



The Smith Clan taken in 2018 at Geoff's son's wedding. Geoff and his wife Susan are in the second row next to the bride.

(Members Profile, from Page 4)

1992, I had the opportunity to attend the Harvard Business School executive AMP program.

What was your career at Kaiser like?

I started working for Kaiser in 1968 as a 21-year-old rookie engineer. I am particularly grateful to Morris Roberson, who mentored me at the start of my career. Morris was among the world's most knowledgeable Alumina Bayer Process engineers at the time and the chief design engineer of Kaiser's new Alumina Refinery in Jamaica (Alpart) that started operation in 1969. Morris recruited me right after I graduated and provided a solid foundation for my 33-year career with Kaiser.



Geoff Smith's official photo as one of the Board of Governors at the Gulf Harbour Yacht and Country Club.

I spent my first year at the Corporate Headquarters in Oakland working on a project associated with the startup of Alpart. I was the first Jamaica-born chemical engineer recruited by Kaiser to work at the new refinery that I could literally see from where I grew up. I feel like some of the "red" in my blood was from Bauxite.

While at Alpart, I had the opportunity to work with many of the Kaiser people assigned from the Baton Rouge and Gramercy Alumina refineries from Louisiana. They provided much needed experience to help operate the new refinery.

Susan, I and the kids moved to Louisiana in 1974 to continue my career at the Baton Rouge plant. It was a very welcoming experience as many of my colleagues had previously worked at Alpart. While there, I became an avid LSU fan, learned how to eat crawfish and became a U.S. citizen. Louisiana was my new homeland. The sad part about

working at the Baton Rouge plant was being there when the decision was made to close the plant permanently. Nearly 1,000 employees lost their jobs, with most having been at the plant for many years.

I eventually became President of the Alumina Business Unit (ABU), tasked with responsibilities for Kaiser's Alumina/Bauxite refineries in Louisiana, Jamaica and Australia with Kaiser and third-party customers around the world. I journeyed to Australia many times and read recently that Australia has become the largest producer of Alumina in the world. Kaiser was an early pioneer in Australia in the production of alumina and had a share of the QAL refinery, which at the time was the largest in the world.

Memories of Henry J. Kaiser

I remember Henry J. Kaiser's legacy as

(Member Profile, continued Page 6)

(Members Profile, from Page 5)

that of an industrialist and entrepreneur. As a young man, I was proud to work for a company created by a man who built a ship in four and a half days during the war years, part of the consortium that built the Hoover dam and created over 100 businesses including steel, aluminum and cement. The Kaiser motto “One person can make a difference” was a testament to the great man, and I have not forgotten what it required of me to be part of the Kaiser family at work and later into retirement.

But what I remember most about working for Kaiser isn’t so much what we did, but who we did it with. I learned so much from the leadership of Kaiser back in the day. It informed how I lived my life. We were all about working as a team, making things better -- a great work ethic and lots of dedication.

The memories from 20 years ago of my fellow ABU colleagues, the camaraderie and the learning experience we all shared, I will never forget. Among the team were Larry Watts, John Lonnie, Jerry Ordeneaux, Gene Miller, Ray Gendron, Bill Kirsch, B.J. Foster, Larry Muenzler and many others. I also appreciated the prior generation of leaders during the early part of my career, including Jim



Geoff and his Golden Retriever “puppy” Breeze driving around the golf course earlier this year.

Sparkman (his son Doug is married to my sister-in-law Margaret), Joe Haydel and JW Melancon.

Although I have not been back to Jamaica in a very long time, I am pleased that the Kaiser Bauxite mine, started some 70 years ago located on the North Coast of Jamaica, is still operating and shipping bauxite to the Gramercy refinery in Louisiana. The conveyor, that still



(Member Profile, continued Page 7)

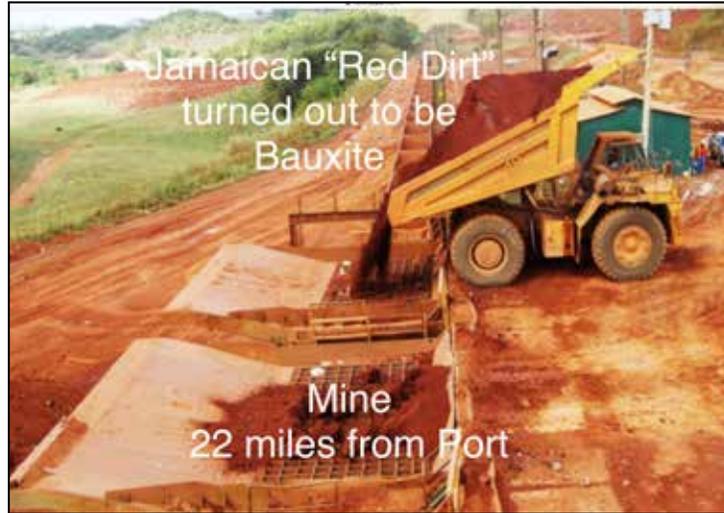
(Members Profile, from Page 6)

takes Bauxite to the ships under the main road tourists take from Montego Bay to the North Coast hotels in Jamaica, remains a lasting symbol of the foresight of Henry J Kaiser.

Tell us about your family.

While I was born in Jamaica, my parents actually came from another Caribbean Island, Barbados. Their family moved there in the 1800s from Scotland. My wife was also born in Jamaica and her family lived in Jamaica for several generations. They also came from Scotland in the 1800s. We frequently go to Barbados, which is more the ancestral home and where my parents (now deceased) and sister live.

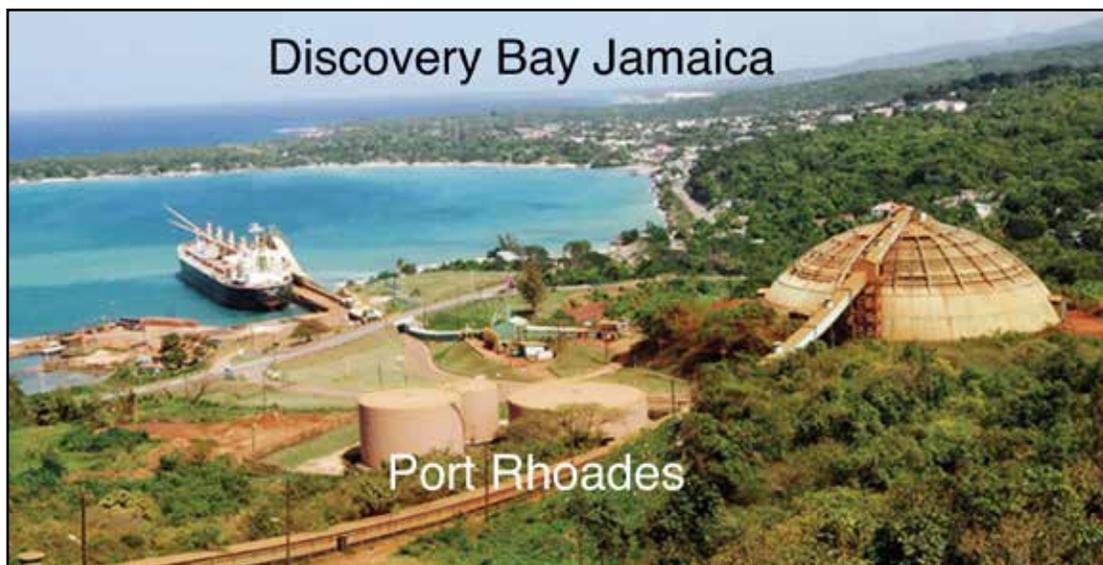
We're lucky one son lives fairly close to us and our daughter is in Tampa, just 160 miles away. Another son and family live in Louisiana and our youngest son is the furthest away in Nashville, TN. We don't see them all as much as we'd like, but with technology, we pretty much keep up



to date with their lives.

Where are you living now?

For the last 24 years, we have been living in a community called Gulf Harbour located on the Caloosahatchee River in South Fort Myers near Sanibel Island. This is one of the many master planned communities found in Florida where the "snow birds" from "up north" come to stay in winter. We love living here as the weather is friendly (except for the occasional hurricane) and the community has all the recreation amenities on site, including golf, tennis, wellness, dining and a marina with easy access to the gulf.



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.

(Members Profile, from Page 7)

Over the years, I continue to serve on numerous volunteer community boards and committees. Last year, during COVID, we undertook a 6.5-million-dollar renovation of the golf course that started in April, and we were playing golf by December 1. It reminded me of a mining operation as it entailed moving around 80,000 cubic yards of dirt using large equipment to create new lakes and contours of the new course on 100 acres. The technology involved in this project was amazing. This year, I am working on a project to put new roofs on all the condo buildings in my community. It will take four months and requires replacing 200,000 concrete tiles that must withstand hurricane force winds up to 150 mph.

It's amazing how many skills I acquired at Kaiser I call upon for my volunteer work. On volunteer boards that spend

your neighbor's money, everyone by definition is an expert and has a say, more chiefs than Indians. Commentary by some in the community is not always friendly. And as a volunteer, I have not received a raise in 25 years! Quite different from the more orderly world I experienced while working at Kaiser. Patience, diplomacy and Teflon skin is required. But I still get in four rounds of golf a week. I put more miles on my golf cart than I do the car!

Tell us about the new love of your life.

Susan and I have just taken on a new challenge -- a Golden Retriever puppy named Breeze. It's a little like having a baby. He was only 13 lbs. when we got him and now, he's 45 lbs. Our world revolves around him. He keeps us well organized, and I can always count on an enthusiastic welcome home.

We Want Your Memories!

We need your help to make the last year of our KASRA Newsletter extra special. The way to do that is by highlighting the events and people you consider the most memorable during your Kaiser career. Maybe it's a special project you worked on or a group of people you really enjoyed working with. Whatever it is, please write it down and send it to us. Photographs are always welcome as well!

Please send your favorite memory to Sally Hogarty at P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or email to sallyhogarty@gmail.com. Remember to include your name and contact information.



We can't wait to see what you send and share it with your former colleagues in a future newsletter!

(President's Message, from Page 1)

newal, and only submit \$10 for a one year renewal and not "pay ahead" for future years. We also want to emphasize that KASRA and VEBA are separate organizations, and dissolving KASRA will in no way effect member's VEBA benefits.

The VEBA benefit is provided to offset health care related insurance premiums paid by eligible retiree family units. We encourage all eligible members to take advantage of this benefit by filing the necessary paperwork in a timely manner to ensure they receive the maximum benefits they are entitled to receive each year. As a reminder, vision and dental premiums are also eligible for reimbursement, in addition to traditional medical related premiums.

Moving on to how Kaiser has fared through these turbulent times, there is good news on that front as well. As was forecast, the second half of last year was an extremely difficult period for the Company, as it was for most of us. Demand for aluminum fabricated products declined across the board. Demand for new cars collapsed as people stayed home, automobile assembly plants were closed for weeks, the number of people traveling on commercial flights was down by 80%, and airlines grounded hundreds of their planes and postponed or cancelled orders for new aircraft. As a result, shipments, revenue and profits all declined dramatically in the second half of 2020. Fortunately the downturn appears relatively short lived. Shipments increased by 20% in the first quarter of this year compared to the second half rate while operating profit increased by 40%. The Company reports that demand for their products is continuing to increase in all of the major

markets they serve.

Thank you again for your continued support of KASRA. Be well, safe travels and enjoy the rest of summer with friends and family.

Erach

Michael Venie

Steve Ping

All the best!

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and
Steve Ping

Co-Presidents, KASRA

In Memoriam



*John E. Childs
Spanaway, WA*

*Louis (Sonny) Lauga
Carriere, Ms*

*Ralph Hugh Schwarz
Orinda, 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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Lunch Bunch organizers are hopeful lunches can resume by fall as more and more retirees are vaccinated. To date, some retirees have met in small groups rather than the usual larger lunches. Contact information for the groups is listed below, and, hopefully, in the September issue of the KASRA Newsletter, we will have a full listing of meetings!

Baton Rouge

The Baton Rouge group is currently being surveyed to see how many would like to resume the luncheons with a potential function in November. 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

"Hopefully, members will be vaccinated and ready to attend our holiday lunch in December," says Sharon. "If not, then maybe next spring." Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 330-8533 or email lafnatv@gmail.com.

Belpre

Organizers are looking to the fall as the first possible luncheon. Contact Betty Blair at (304) 489-1337 or email bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

Chalmette

Contact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-0437 or email schimcol@aol.com.

Erie

Contact Tim Healy at (814) 402-1062 or email thealy1931@gmail.com.

Los Angeles

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

Mead

Contact Dan Coe at (509) 944-7264 or email dancoe33@comcast.net.

Newark

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

Ravenswood

Contact Pete Westenhaver at (304) 266-4109 or email Pete26164@gmail.com or call Lee Corder at (304) 273-9457.

Tacoma

Contact Bob Mohr at 253 820 6569 or bobmohr1942@gmail.com.

Trentwood

Contact Steve Harvey at (509) 939-7132 or email s1harv3y@comcast.net.

Kaiser Land North of Mead to Become Mixed-Use Development

In 1946, Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp. purchased an aluminum smelter on 180 acres in Mead, WA. A decade later, the company enlarged its footprint in the area by buying another 400 acres. With its dismantlement in 2013, the site has remained largely abandoned.

Now, Greenstone Corp. has purchased 300 of those 400 acres to build a mixed-use development of approximately 1,450 residences. Kaiser Aluminum retains ownership of the remaining 100 acres. The new development's tentative name is appropriately Mead Works.

Although Kaiser never really developed the 400 acres, it did funnel contaminated stormwater from the smelter site across the land resulting in significant clean-up required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency before any construction can commence.