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KASRA  
Co-Presidents

Visit website at  
[www.e-kasra.com](http://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](mailto:VEBA@deltafund.com).

### *Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association*

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

COVID seems like the pandemic that never goes away. Just

when we thought it safe to return to some semblance of normalcy, along came omicron and a fresh surge of cases. But on the plus side, as this column is being written, the case counts are starting to come down. So, hope is once again sprouting that we may return to a more normal life, along with the green shoots of Spring.

Thank you all for your tremendous response to our request for you to send in your memories of Kaiser Aluminum for our final newsletters. Because of the many responses, we are able to devote the bulk of our final two newsletters to your memories. We think you will enjoy reading the fond recollections of your fellow alumni about their careers at Kaiser.

VEBA – This is to remind you that you have until the end of this year (December 2022) to file for your VEBA benefits for the 2021 calendar year. Now may be a good time to collect all those necessary documents from last year and send off your request for reimbursement to the VEBA. Remember that the maximum benefit for each Family Unit in 2021 was \$5,000. If you have questions, please contact the VEBA by phone at the toll-free number of 1(888) 344-8322 or by email at [VEBA@deltafund.com](mailto:VEBA@deltafund.com).

**Remember that the VEBA is completely separate from KASRA and will continue to function as long as**

**there are retirees who are qualified to receive VEBA benefits.** Please remember to save the VEBA contact information that we publish in every edition of the KASRA Newsletter. Soon there will be no Newsletter to turn to for ready reference!

The same cautionary reminder applies to two other benefits of being a KASRA member.

**1. The email address directory:** You might want to save the email directory that KASRA sent out each October. This could be useful to continue to stay in touch with our fellow retirees!

**2. The e-kasra website:** The website will continue to remain accessible for a while as the organization wraps up its activities. But at some point KASRA will no longer exist and so will stop paying for Internet service. If you are interested in saving any of the pictures, newsletters or other content on the website, now would be the time to download and save it to your home computer.

We wish everyone good health and urge you to remain vaccinated and vigilant so we can see the back of this terrible pandemic. Enjoy the coming Spring and the warmer weather ahead. We look forward to hearing about your Kaiser memories from as many of you as possible for the next (and final) issue of the KASRA Newsletter.

All the best!

*Erach Tarapore* *Mike Venie* *Steve Ping*

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and  
Steve Ping

Co-Presidents, KASRA

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Accomplishments . . .

Congratulations to **Roger Triemstra** (Munster, IN)), who at the age of 91 became an author! Roger worked for Kaiser for 10 years before becoming a meteorologist for WGN in Chicago, IN. He recently penned *Cooler by the Lake*.

“I thought I’d write some memories down before time slipped by,” Roger said. “I chose the title as a reflection of how important Lake Michigan has been to me. From birth through adulthood, the lake, and the weather it influences, have been a daily presence in my life. Included in the 204 colorful pages are photos and stories from my WGN years, the people I worked with, and the many travels and family-related events that have made my life so meaningful.”

Roger began working for Kaiser in its new Chemical Division around 1956 in Dolton, IL. He honed his writing skills as a contributor for Kaiser’s in-house publication. He recalls being sent to Chile to be on a task force with employees from DuPont and Union Carbide among others to study why sheep in the area were going blind. The ozone layer was the suspected culprit and Roger’s knowledge



**Mike and Claudia Venie** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the Island of Capri in Italy.



**Roger Triemstra** recently published his first book *Cooler By the Lake*, a reference to his beloved Lake Michigan.

of meteorology and metallurgy gave him some unique insights. “Kaiser wanted to be sure they weren’t making a consumer product that was dangerous,” Roger said. “They wanted to be responsible corporate citizens.”

*Cooler By the Lake* is available by going to [www.rogertheweatherman.com](http://www.rogertheweatherman.com).

### Birthdays/Anniversaries . . .

**Mike Venie** (Queen’s Creek, AZ) and his wife Claudia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December with a trip to Rome and the Amalfi Coast.

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

Volunteering at the Clothing Bank and at the Food Bank keeps **Chuck Totten** (Puyallup, WA) busy. Chuck, who previously worked at the Reduction Plant at Tacoma, WA, also ushers at Lumen Field, where the Seattle Seahawks football team and the Seattle Sounders soccer club play, as well as sporting events at the University of Washington. Following his retirement from Kaiser, Chuck worked at Spacelabs Healthcare for 17 years.

## MEMORIES OF KAISER

*Please share your favorite memory(ies) of Kaiser Aluminum as well as your photos. We would like to include these memories in our last Newsletter, which will be published in May.*

*Send to KASRA News, c/o Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA, 94516, or e-mail your information to [sallyhogarty@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhogarty@gmail.com).*

The Export Department in Oakland was a small, backwater operation in 1954 when I was hired as an Export Clerk to work with John Healy, Assistant Manager Felix Bernard, Manager Ernie Rothschild and two staff support ladies – Helen Gailey and Ramona (I'm afraid I don't remember her last name).

Wham! Several years later the government stockpile purchasing program ended, and Kaiser needed new markets for large quantities of metal. Our department became the International Division with new direction and explosive energy from Lloyd Amos (operations) and Alan-son Brooks (sales).

My most exciting memory was the night the phone rang at 9:30 p.m. It was **Al Brooks** asking, "How soon can you get to Australia, find an agent there for us and get some orders?" A few days later I was on a 21-hour flight to Australia, wearing the new hat Brook's boss, **Ray Boyd**, advised me to wear "down under." I had never made an out-of-office aluminum sales call, never seen an extrusion press, rod mill or foundry, but I

had toured the Trentwood Works earlier in a training program. Fortunately, I got an ingot order from High Duty Alloys on my first call, appointed an agent and made several new Australian friends for the Company and for me personally.

Then, I received a cable from Brooks saying, "As long as you are close, proceed to Hong Kong, look at the market and appoint an agent." It was another 20-hour DC-7 flight. When I finally got home about a month after leaving, I pointed out to Brooks what a distance it was between Australia and Hong Kong. He turned his swivel chair to the big world map behind his desk, put his thumb on Sydney and forefinger on Hong Kong and said, "See? It isn't THAT far." We both had a laugh.

Those were exciting days with Kaiser Aluminum. We all had a ball and joined together to build a successful international business.

--Bruce N. Wilson  
Pleasanton, CA



Edgar F. Kaiser, Henry J. Sr. and Henry J. Jr. (1949) at presentation of new Kaiser-Frazier autos in SF.

*(Memories of Kaiser, from Page 3)*

I will always remember the great staff I was privileged to work with at Kaiser Trentwood Health Center. Little did I realize the many tasks I would be asked to do during my 14 years there. I counted it a privilege to serve the employees at Trentwood, WA.

--Virginia Thiesies  
Dallas, OR

I worked for Kaiser for 27 years and 10 months as a machinist doing maintenance work and many special projects, including building machines and tools to maintain them. I enjoyed most every day I worked for Kaiser and most of the people I worked with. One big mistake I made was taking a foreman's job. I discovered I just wasn't foreman material!

--Allen L. Davaz  
Marsing, ID

After earning my PhD in physical chemistry from UC Berkeley, I was hired by **Morris Berger** in Kaiser's Center for Technology (CFT) computer department. There were no keyboards or CRTs then. Labs communicated with the central computer via a console containing a telephone dial for entering experiment setup data. I learned a lot from Morris which led me to pursue a career in software engineering for 18 years following my early retirement from Kaiser.

As computer technology changed, I was able to introduce email and the

Internet to CFT. One of my most interesting projects was developing surface inspection software for aluminum sheet. I made many trips to the Trentwood and Ravenswood rolling mills to get this software installed and operational.

Some of my best memories of CFT were the Christmas parties, the kids Easter egg hunts, and the Wednesday night golf league. There was also the memorable bouillabaisse dinner that **Gary Gerard** (a noted cook besides being the CFT library manager) made for the full staff. There were long lines into the lunchroom that night!

--Gene Meyers  
Berkeley, CA

I joined Kaiser Aluminum in the 1957 acquisition of the U.S. Rubber Wire and Cable Division, where I was a rookie salesman in Houston. My first big meeting took place at the old Palmolive Building in Chicago, IL where the agenda centered on 1) conversion of copper wire to aluminum and 2) "Catch Alcoa," then the industry leader. We had great success



Edgar F. Kaiser with President John F. Kennedy.

*(Memories of Kaiser, from Page 4)*

through the efforts of RT&D in Spokane, WA, and Pleasanton, CA, coupled with the superb engineering staff at Newark, OH and Bristol, Rhode Island. At least, a half dozen Kaiser products became industry standards. My career spanned 31 years with Kaiser and then 19 years with Conex Cable, a Kaiser spin off. I worked with some great bosses – **Cornell Maier**, **Steve Hutchcraft**, **Howard Nelson** to name just a few. What a ride!

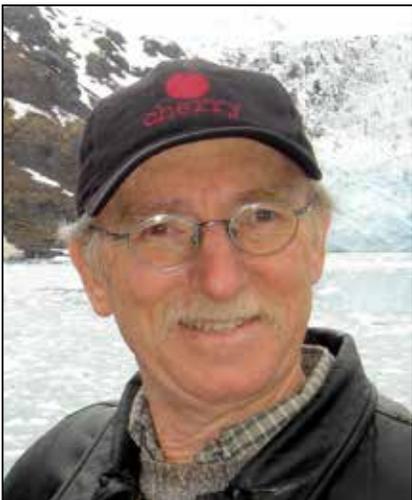
--Jerry Bills  
Downers Grove, IL



Jerry Bills

I have many fond memories from my 30-plus years with Kaiser. My first memory dates to about 1970 when I was assigned as a young chemist to monitor the start-up of the new multiproduct alumina plant in Baton Rouge, LA.

As the new guy from California, I was put on “dog shift,” the dreaded 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. slot. I did not drink coffee and found myself at 3 a.m. barely able to function. Two kind Cajun operators were concerned and poured me some community dark roast from a battered pot into an actual demitasse cup along with a dollop of cream and heaping spoon of sugar. They said, “this should get you through to sunrise.” It did, and 50 years later coffee



Gene Meyers on a trip to Alaska.

remains a necessity in my life with the culture of Louisiana a fond memory.

--Ron Rigge  
Pleasanton, CA

When I took the transfer opportunity to go from Kaiser’s Cincinnati operation to Oakland’s packaging department in 1975, I was worried about the higher cost of living. Fortunately, everything worked out fine with the house I purchased in Walnut Creek, CA, doubling in value in five years.

The people were certainly special at Kaiser. I was happy to hear that **Harry Winberg**, retired Quality Control Manager at Permanente Foil Plant was still alive. A few years ago, I received a call from **Bob Kitchen**, former District Sales Manager, Foil and Container in Oakland, CA. He was 96 at the time and in a retirement home on the East Coast. He had found a photo of my wife and I on a bridge in Eastern Canada and shared it with me. Such a good guy – he took early retirement from Kaiser to devote more time to his real estate career, making it possible for me to replace him at Kaiser.

--Chet Ferdun  
Alamo, CA

### 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](mailto:sallyhogarty@gmail.com).

\* Photos encouraged.

*(Memories of Kaiser, from Page 5)*

I was hired at the Baton Rouge plant on May 28, 1954, after completing a two-year assignment with U.S. Air Force. In 36 ½ year of employment with KACC, my order of assignments was Baton Rouge, Chalmette, Gramercy, Ravenswood, Sydney (Australia), Trentwood, Discovery Bay (Jamaica), and Newark. These eight residential assignments, plus numerous visits to Oakland, leave one outstanding and enduring memory that underlines the recollection of my days with KACC: the quality and integrity of my work associates.

I immensely enjoyed each of my assignments and received challenging operational exposure in all four major areas of Mining, Refining, Reduction and Semi-Fabrication. I am now 91 years old. There is no question in my mind that my favorite memories of my years with Kaiser are among those many persons who are (or have been) members of the Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association. Our Association is winding up essentially because our Association is a “time bound” group that, by definition, limited membership to those who worked for KACC within a given start and end date and the end date is finite.



Edgar F. Kaiser, Henry J. Kaiser, Sr. and Henry J. Kaiser, Jr. in 1960.

Therefore, we lose memberships as time takes its inevitable toll and such losses cannot be replaced.

The reality is we feel strongly about those whom we have experienced valued relationships with and are saddened whenever they depart. Yet, the memory of those valued friends continues to give each of us a smile as we recall our former experiences with them. Perhaps the wisdom of Irish Saying #22 may give some of us some comfort as we experience the inevitable lessening of our group of friends:

*Death brings heartache that no one can heal.*

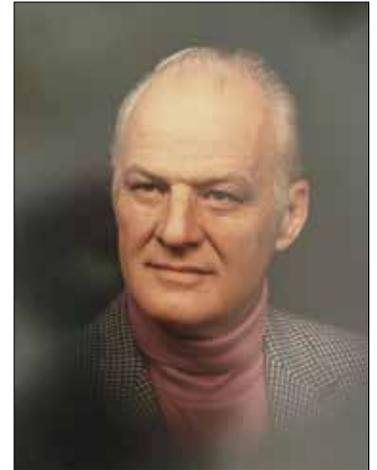
*Love brings memories that no one can steal.*

May God bless you all.

--Ed Coyne  
Leesburg, FL

I worked at Ravenswood Works, WV and my favorite memory is the good people that worked for Kaiser Aluminum.

--C. Lee Corder  
Ravenswood, WV



Ed Coyne at Newark, Ohio in 1987. He last worked at Newark's Rod, Bar, and Wire Division.

*(What's Going On, from Page 2)*

**Corrine L. Jennings** (Central Point, OR) recalls her first job out of “Arts and Crafts” art school was with Kaiser’s Charts Department in Oakland, CA. According to Corrine, her group made nice looking charts used in various business meetings. But what was even nicer was a young man working across the hall from the Charts Department. “It was around 1952 and the young man’s name was **Orville Jennings**. We married in 1958,” she said.

Corrine went on to other art jobs until she was too busy being a mother to the couple’s four children. “Years later when Orville retired from Kaiser, we retired to Oregon.”

*A special thank you to Kaiser retiree Janet Mangini (Oakland, CA) for the photos of Edgar F. Kaiser with President John Fitzgerald Kennedy as well as those with Edgar, Henry J. Kaiser and Henry J. Kaiser, Jr.*

### **Best Wishes . . .**

Our condolences to the family of **June M. Kuljis**, surviving spouse of **Joseph Kuljis**, who passed away October 23, 2021, as well as to long-time Kaiser engineer **Robert L. Eisenbach, Jr.** (Baton Rouge, LA) who lost his wife **Jean** September 12, 2021. Best wishes also go to **Virginia Thiesies** (Dallas, OR), who lost her husband **Myrl Elwyn** October 19, 2021. Virginia and Myrl had moved to Dallas Retirement Village in September. The former worker at Kaiser’s healthcare facility at Trentwood Works, said her hobby now is “making new friends.”

## *In Memoriam*



*Eve Y. Armantrout  
Pt. Pleasant, WV*

*Wilmer W. Basler  
Spokane Valley, WA*

*William James Budge  
Piedmont, CA*

*Gary L. Gibbs  
Racine, OH*

*Louis G. Giusti  
Bristol, RI*

*Wilson G. Roussel  
Baton Rouge, LA*

*Bruce A. Wager  
Geen Acres, WA*

*L.Dave Whitman  
Ravenwood, WV*

*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](mailto: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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With the Coronavirus surge, only a few Lunch Bunch groups have managed small lunch gatherings. Contact information for the groups is listed below, and, hopefully, in the near future groups will begin meeting in person.

#### Baton

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Drusilla Seafood, 3482 Drusilla Ln D, in Baton Rouge. Exact date to be determined. Email Bob Preson at [leilap3@cox.net](mailto:leilap3@cox.net), or Bob Schoen at [bobschoen@cox.net](mailto:bobschoen@cox.net), or call Bob Schoen at (225) 937-2984.

#### Bay Area, KARLA

No Holiday luncheon but organizers may do something in May or June. Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 330-8533 or email [lafnatv@gmail.com](mailto:lafnatv@gmail.com).

#### Belpre

Contact Betty Blair at (304) 489-1337 or email [bettylou13@suddenlink.net](mailto:bettylou13@suddenlink.net).

#### Chalmette

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

#### Erie

Breakfast meeting on third Saturday of the month. Shirley's, 1924 Old French Rd, 8:30 a.m. Contact Tim Healy at (814) 402-1062 or email [thealy1931@gmail.com](mailto:thealy1931@gmail.com).

March 19, April 16

#### Los Angeles

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

#### Mead

Contact Dan Coe at (509) 944-7264 or email [danceoe33@comcast.net](mailto:danceoe33@comcast.net).

#### Newark

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

#### Ravenswood

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

#### Tacoma

The group is planning a June luncheon meeting. Contact Bob Mohr at 253 820 6569 or [bobmohr1942@gmail.com](mailto:bobmohr1942@gmail.com).

#### Trentwood

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



Baton Rouge retirees got together for lunch Nov. 10, 2021. L-R: Jennifer Angier, Claire and Ray Gendron.