



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 PRESIDENTS

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

On behalf of KASRA's Co-Presidents and

the Board of Directors, we send our greetings and best wishes to all members and surviving spouses. As we have communicated for at least the past six months, this newsletter will be our last one. We have run out of both money and retiree volunteers to continue sending you a newsletter, like we have done every two months for nearly 20 years.

We are so very thankful to all the retiree volunteers who have worked so hard over the past 30+ years to make KASRA a successful organization. The formation of KASRA was done to help the salaried retirees retain their medical insurance benefits should Kaiser decide to drop them. A leadership team from KASRA legally fought for these benefits during the bankruptcy proceedings, and, as we all know, this team was successful in helping secure a VEBA program for retirees and surviving spouses. As a reminder, VEBA is completely separate from KASRA and will continue to operate after KASRA is dissolved.

After the VEBA was set up, the KASRA directors wisely thought to continue a newsletter to communicate how to sign up for the VEBA benefits and to help members connect with past colleagues. We want to thank all of you who have contributed stories and information for past newsletters. These updates on events in your lives made

the newsletter special and continued the connection with one another we all enjoyed as Kaiser employees. The newsletter team is so very grateful for your contributions.

KASRA members, as a group, have felt their time with the company was special, especially when considering the many lifelong friends made between work associates and their families. We hope those strong connections will never weaken, and all of you will keep in contact through personal visits, phone calls and/or emails.

The KASRA website will only be active until the end of 2022. Thus, if anyone wants to copy some of its data, such as pictures, members list of email addresses, the VEBA contact information, etc., you should do that very soon, so you permanently have it to enjoy/use after this year.

Now, in our swan song, we hope your path continues to cross with other Kaiser retirees, even if only in a virtual way. May you all be blessed with memories of the many joys you experienced during your Kaiser years. Stay well and happy.

All the best!

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and
Steve Ping

Co-Presidents, KASRA

MEMORIES OF KAISER

For the past several months, retirees have been sharing their memories of Kaiser with former colleagues through this newsletter. We would like to thank them for taking the time to send us their stories and photos. It has been wonderful to hear all the tales, see the photos and experience the camaraderie of the Kaiser family.

Thank you!

Mark Via's Memories of Mead Plant

Many of us struggled through the constant cyclical production levels associated with the ups and downs of the Reduction Division. One memory that stuck with me was how difficult it was for our managers to make reductions in personnel during the market down cycles. I commend all the decision makers on their

dedication to the process even though they were forced to terminate close friends.

It was the mid-eighties when the Mead Plant was facing more “phased” reductions, and I knew it was only a matter of time before I would be included in the reduction. I had the fortunate experience of being terminated by **John E. Daniel** (Jed), Mead Plant Manager, and I recognized how difficult it was for him, like many of our other managers, to let someone go.

I respected Jed and his leadership through difficult times. I am certain many others felt the same way. I am thankful for Jed's dedication and determination to do what he thought was best and always looking out for the people he worked with.

Jed was instrumental in the formation of



The Mead Ingots basketball team from Mead Works in Spokane, WA. (L-R) Barry Wills - Labor Relations, Tom Morlock – Maintenance, Tom Evans - Carbon Plant, Skip McEwing - Labor Relations, Matt May - Industrial Engineering, Joe Caddy - Carbon Plant, Roger Olsen - Carbon Plant, Tom Frolich - Bonneville Power, Dick Evans - Industrial Engineering and Mark Via – Maintenance.

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VEBA, and we were all lucky to have him fighting for us. It was my honor to have been a member of Jed's organization even though he "fired" me.

--Mark Via
Peoria, AZ

Woody Sorensen's Memories of Kaiser Chemicals

After completing my military service, I joined Kaiser Chemicals in 1963 in Chicago and was one of the first Chemical Division salespersons.

It started an exciting and gratifying 26 years with Kaiser. The Chemical Division grew into a very profitable part of Kaiser Aluminum. My family and I later moved to Oakland where I became sales manager and expanded my customer base and contacts with other Kaiser Divisions. We invited some of our good customers to play in Kaiser's Golf Tournament at Silverado Country Club. **Johnny Miller**

was in our group.

I have many lasting memories of the tournament and more. Such as when we experienced a substantial earthquake in the Bay Area. My office was on the 20th floor of the Kaiser Center in Oakland, and the building began to sway causing the items on my desk to slide.

But some of my greatest memories were working with our Chemical sales team and developing lasting customer relationships.

After Kaiser, I worked for La Roche Chemicals, Borden Chemicals and Melamine Chemicals working out of Gramercy and living in Baton Rouge, LA. My wife Marlowe, daughter Sara and three sons Paul, Brian and Scott also lived in Woodlands, TX, and Walnut Creek, CA, during this time.

The KASRA newsletter has been an



The 1980 Trentwood Team: Front row (L-R) - Walt Oliver, Bette Brattebo, Bob O'Neill, two people far right are unknown; Second row (L-R) far left unknown, Joe Reger (Floyd Soderstrom behind him), Chuck Munson, Birch Roark, Joe Cavanaugh, John Naddy, Carl Howell, Don Worledge and Chris Wangaard

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informative source of information over the years about Kaiser people and their activities. Thank you to all the people who made that happen. You will be missed.

Marlowe and I moved to Scottsdale, AZ, in 2000 and have been here ever since. I have continued to sell Industrial Chemicals, Melamine and PBT, as an independent contractor representing Gromax Chemicals headquartered in Irvine, CA. It has been a gratifying and enlightening journey, thanks to all the wonderful people I met along the way!

--Woody Sorensen
Scottsdale, AZ

The Brattebos' Memories of Trentwood

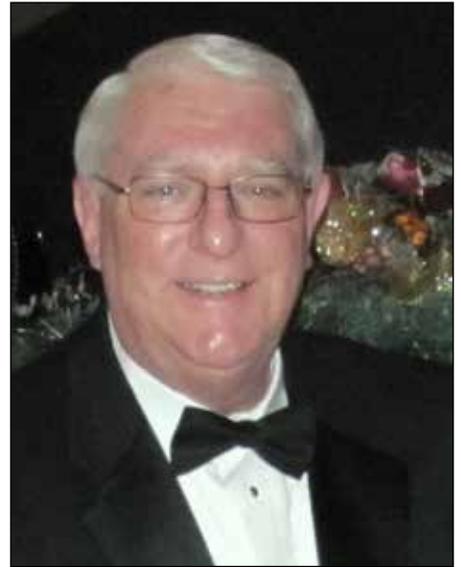
My favorite memory of Kaiser was working for **Bob O'Neil** at Trentwood when we won the Best Operating Team Award (1976?). Then my husband, Tom, got a job at Trentwood and I left. He eventually retired and I've been able to keep up on Kaiser news through the wonderful KASRA newsletters.

Thank You Kaiser for all the memories.
--Bette and Tom Brattebo
Liberty Lake, WA

Alan Candioto's Memories of HR/Labor Relations Work

I worked for Kaiser doing HR and Labor Relations work in both the Raw Material and Diversified Chemicals Divisions from early 1979 through late 1989. While that was a relatively short period of time, I made many good friends and had a lot of experiences that I remember to this day.

1. The Chalmette Plant – When the Chal-



A 2010 photo of Alan Candioto.

mette plant outside of New Orleans, LA, shut down, I was given Louisiana Regional oversight for maintaining the assets at the plant. Former HR Manager **Ernie Cappel** kept up the condition of the facility. I periodically visited the plant and maintained contact with Ernie. One day I noticed that there were lots of weeds and even small trees overtaking some outdoor areas. When I spoke to Ernie, he told me that he had very little help to maintain such a large area but would do the best he could. On my next visit, the conditions had dramatically improved. The fence lines were clean, and all the weeds had disappeared. When I asked Ernie how he had accomplished this, he simply replied with a big grin – “goats.” He had acquired several and let them roam freely. They ate everything in sight!

2. Alpart Plant - After the Company divested the chemical businesses, I returned to Raw Materials to work for **Joe Haydel** and **Larry Watts**. My assignment was to act as Expatriate Personnel Manager on the re-start of the Alpart bauxite mine and refinery in Jamaica.

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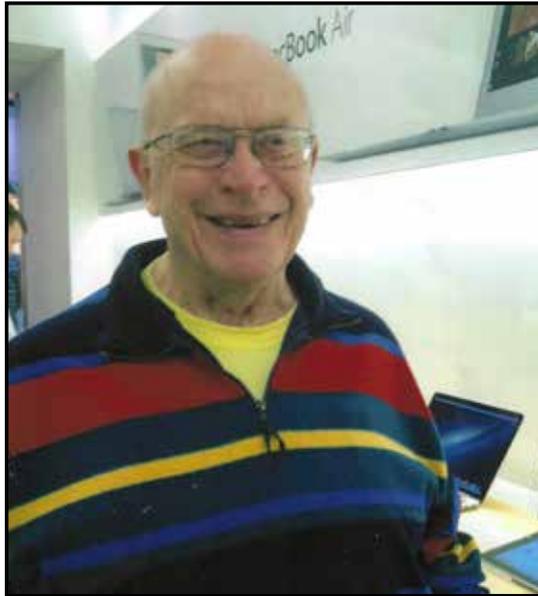
(Memories of Kaiser, from Page 4)

I also had the responsibility for the Alpart housing complex in Mandeville. A number of those homes had sustained hurricane damage in prior years, and the appliances and furniture had disappeared.

I wanted to purchase the items locally but, after visiting several furniture factories, I soon realized that my needs were overwhelming to the local businesses. I had to go to a large furniture outlet in New Orleans and arrange for the purchase of washers, dryers, refrigerators dining sets, beds, mattresses, dressers, rugs, sofas, chairs, living room tables, and countless sets of dishes, pans, cutlery, etc. The goods were shipped as backhaul cargo on the decks of the bauxite ships as they traveled back to Jamaica.

As the goods began to arrive, my crew of eight Jamaican laborers delivered the items to the homes. That process went on for days, and I came to have a clear picture of what the phrase “soon come, Mon” meant. Despite my sincere attempt at decorating and color-coordinating, many of the residents ended up trading pictures, chairs, rugs, etc. with their neighbors.

The other notable memory was the night I received a phone call from one of our security guards. He said “Mr. Al, come quickly. We have captured a thief.” I raced over to their location on the other side of the complex. When I arrived, I saw two of the guards standing by their little patrol car, but I saw no thief. When I asked about the thief, they explained that they had no handcuffs, so they had locked him in the trunk of their car. About that time, the local constables (the “Redstripes”)



Les Buchholz

arrived. They quickly got the thief out of the trunk, and to my astonishment, put him in the trunk of their car. Right then, I silently vowed to do everything I could to stay out of trouble while I was in Jamaica.

--Alan Candioto
Fort Wayne, IN

Les Buchholtz' Wife Remembers his Kaiser Career

My husband, **Les Buchholz**, who died May 2021, was a wonderful husband and the best dad to our three kids and grandpa to nine. He started with Kaiser in Newark, OH, as a purchasing agent in 1966.

We have so many memories of our 30 years with Kaiser and living in several cities from Ohio to California including New Orleans, LA., where we prayed the air conditioning unit would not falter!

In 1980, Les transferred to Trentwood in Spokane, WA. Traveling for Kaiser Aluminum gave us opportunities we

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ordinarily would not have. We continued after Les retired at the age of 57 going to Europe and beyond as our son David was in the Navy. Les had also become a master gardener. He had a green thumb for roses which still grace our present home in McMinnville, OR.

--Judy Buchholz
McMinnville, OR

Michele Tarkington Remembers Working in Personnel

My favorite memory is of Kaiser Graphic Arts, where I “temped” for four months until a position in Personnel opened. Working with **Jack Galliano** was a great experience. He did very unusual projects for Kaiser. I was the go-fer. Who remembers receiving a box with a pith helmet and “essence of lion” in it? I delivered them! Then I was recruited from Kaiser Personnel by **Bob Shader** to be his Personnel Administrator, setting up the new Kaiser Aetna. It was exciting starting a new company and working with Bob.

--Michele Tarkington
Castro Valley, CA

John Hunger Recalls Working in Ghana

Working for Kaiser at any location was always a significant pleasure especially when Esther and I uprooted our family from a coalmining town in Pennsylvania and moved to Tema, Ghana to work at Valco. When we first moved, we didn’t know anyone but **Jim Hammond** and **Ora Linton**, but we soon made many wonderful friends.

Kaiser made us feel as though we were helping a third-world country and introduced us to international travel. We still communicate with most of the friends we



Copyright Karsh, Ottawa

(L-R) Edgar F. Kaiser, Chairman of the Board, Kaiser Industries Corp and Eugene E. Trefethen, Jr., President, Kaiser Industries Corp in front of portrait of Henry J. Kaiser.

made in Tema. We also met **Edgar Kaiser** and hosted his team when they visited. I will always have a special feeling for Tema and Valco.

--John Hunter
Muskogee, OK

Susan Ashe Remembers Working in Public Affairs

So many memories in nearly 24 years with Kaiser that it’s hard to select just one. I was hired in 1978 by **Bruce McPhaden** and **Joe Piedmont**. I feel very fortunate to have learned from some of the best leaders including the many plant managers and vice presidents who shared their talents during my years in Public Affairs at Trentwood.

A very fond memory is working closely with management in a regional politi-

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Victor Blossom at the Trentwood plant in the 1960s.

cal and marketing campaign to maintain electricity for our NW smelters. We were successful, but, ultimately, the BPA and politicians “won.”

The company was such an important part of my life and that of my family. It lifted me from near poverty as a single mom, paid for my college education, provided great learning experiences and the opportunity to find solutions to many thorny public affairs issues. I am forever grateful and continue to use the skills I learned as the Executive Director of the Health Sciences and Services Authority of Spokane County.

--Susan Ashe
Spokane, WA

Daughter Recalls Her Father’s Career with Kaiser

My dad, **Victor Blossom**, started at Trentwood when he was 21 and newly discharged from the army. I was just a

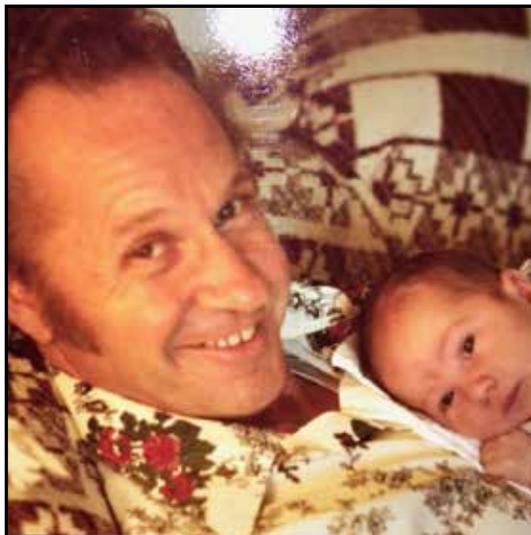
few months old. In 1969, he transferred to Kaiser Chemical Corp in Pleasanton, CA. I was 16 and it opened an amazing new life for us all. We lived in a new housing development in Livermore not far from Kaiser’s beautiful facility in Pleasanton.

He transferred back to Trentwood in 1987 but, unfortunately, he had Multiple Myeloma (cancer of the blood in the bone marrow) and died in 1991, a few months shy of his 60th birthday.

My dad did shift work, so our house was quiet if he was asleep, but we made up for it on days off! My grandfather and uncles also worked at Trentwood pouring hot metal. Brave men all.

My personal favorite memory is getting the beautiful roll of Aluminum Foil wrapping paper at Christmas. Mom and I loved unwrapping each layer of the roll to “ooh” and “ahh” over each new design and color.

Dad would probably say the best part of Kaiser for him was the great people he worked with – from all walks of life with many becoming lifelong friends.



Victor Blossom with his first granddaughter in the late 1980s.

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He spent a lot of time in California helping test the third rail that carries electricity to the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system. I'm sure he is very proud BART still operates over 50 years later.

Kaiser inspired my dad's desire to continue his education. He took many night classes, and his newly acquired skills were valued by Kaiser with Kaiser bestowing recognition on him and other employees for each milestone.

Dad did a little traveling to other Kaiser locations and loved the opportunities it afforded. He even considered moving to Kaiser's site in Africa, but he realized we were needed back in Spokane to care for aging parents. Family was always most important. Thank you, Kaiser, for being a lifelong member of our family.

Tricia Svenningsen
San Lorenzo, CA

Robert Jewett Recalls Meeting Henry Kaiser

I hired on with Kaiser early in 1947 and my early memories are of Mead Works in North Spokane, WA. A great memory is when **Mr. Kaiser** visited the six-line plant and rode around in an open-air Jeep.

I retired from Mead Dec. 31, 1982, and soon joined a five-man team doing an equipment survey at Trentwood Rolling Mill. I did the electrical portion. When I was called in three weeks later by the new Maintenance Superintendent, I thought he wanted me to explain why I filled out the survey certain ways. Instead, he offered me a job working on the hot line modernization. Finally in February 1990, I finished everything and made my retirement permanent.

At age 97, I still do my own house and yard work and tend our many flowers. I also am the full-time care giver for my 98-year-old lady partner.

--Robert Jewett
Colbert, WA



Kaiser Graphic Arts

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar F. Kaiser dressed in native oriental costume, enjoy a moment of relaxation following the dedication of the Ryukyu cement plant expansion in Oct. 1967.

Memories By Two Kaiser Retirees

I had so many happy days at Kaiser working with very nice folks.

--Avis Duncan
Tumwater, WA

I have great memories of the mas-

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querade party for family and friends held at Chalmette, LA. Our group went as characters from "The Wizard of Oz." The winners (don't remember who!) received a pair of dice and a monkey with an organ grinder. I had a picture but can't find it. Katrina may have gotten it!

--Marie and Anthony Fradella
Calmette, LA



Photo by Jon Brenneis
Henry J. Kaiser in Akonsmbo, Ghana

Non-Employee's Gratitude to Retirees

Although I've never worked for Kaiser, I have an idea what it was like being a part of a company that made such a different to so many people.

Over my 11 years putting together the KASRA Newsletter. I've talked with many of you on the phone or via email. I'm especially thankful for the lovely retirees I've been able to meet in person either at the KARLA holiday party or one-on-one during an interview for one of our profiles. I feel like I've been a part of the adventure of working for a vibrant company as it expanded into new areas and the sadness when Kaiser declined and was sold.

What came out over and over when we talked was how much the people you worked with meant to you. It seems Henry and Edgar Kaiser created an environment where people were the most important asset of the company. How lucky you all were to experience such a situation.

Thank you so much for sharing such an important part of your lives with me and other retirees. I hope you will continue to keep in touch with one another.

--Sally Hogarty
Canyon, CA

In Memoriam



Retirees

*R. Creel Ballew
Austin, TX*

*Walter L. Booker
Ripley, WV*

*Maurice (Mau) L. Eskins
Westerville, OH*

*Donald C. Kush
Pleasanton, CA*

*Michael R. Legg
Point Pleasant, WV*

*Leona D. Radach
Porterville, CA*

Spouses

*Ruth Ann Eichhorn
surviving spouse*

*Hazel N. James
spouse of Henry James*

*Pamela Thomas
surviving spouse*

*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:
www.e-kasra.com

This is our final newsletter so please make note of the contact information below. Although the KASRA organization is closing, local groups still plan to meet as health concerns lessen. We hope you will continue to get together with each other and swap stories about your time at Kaiser!

Baton Rouge **November** or email robemmet39@gmail.com

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, or Bob Schoen at bobschoen@cox.net, or call Bob Schoen at (225) 937-2984.

Bay Area, KARLA

Organizers may do something in May or June. Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 330-8533 or email lafnatv@gmail.com.

Belpre

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 **May 21, June 18, Aug. 16**

Breakfast meeting 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.

Los Angeles

Contact Bob O'Leary at (714) 898-7463

Mead

Contact Dan Coe at (509) 944-7264 or email dance33@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

June 3

June luncheon meeting from noon – 3 p.m., Poodle Dog at Fife, 1524 54th Ave East, Fife, WA. Contact Bob Mohr at (253) 820-6569; bobmohr1942@gmail.com or Diane Nelson at (253) 891-7147; dlnelson25@comcast.net or Sandy Bates at (253) 672-2770.

Trentwood

Contact Steve Harvey at (509) 939-7132 or email slharv3y@comcast.net.



(L-R) Camp Matens and Richard Damberg joined other Baton Rouge retirees for lunch at Drusilla Seafood on Nov. 10, 2021.