

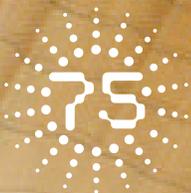
Al~AyyamAl~Jamilah

الأيام الجميلة

PLEASANT DAYS

FALL 2008

Paris was Great
At Reunion 2008!



- * "Kids of '47" Celebrate
- * 15 Years a-Growin'
- * Tips for Viewing & Reading
- * Brats & Really Old
Timers Gather

KSA Reunion 2009: Countdown Begins

Sightseers, sailors and shoppers get set: The 2nd KSA Reunion Organizing Committee is expecting to welcome some 600 Aramco retirees and friends next year with a program that's certain to appeal to all, according to Ali Baluchi, committee chairman. The signup deadline for the homecoming, scheduled for March 9–18, was Nov. 1

Attendees will be able to customize their own itineraries before the reunion starts via the reunion Web site: www.ksareunion.com. Attendees are invited to a Welcome Dinner hosted by Saudi Aramco's president and CEO on March 11, and a Farewell Dinner sponsored by the Saudi Businessmen's Group on March 17. Between those major events, guests will have the opportunity to choose among shopping and sightseeing trips, sporting events, exhibits and dinners, and have time to visit old friends and coworkers.

Among the highlights of company life are the activities of its 56 Self Directed Groups. Members of many of these groups are also busy planning special events to welcome former members and employees back to the community and give them a glimpse into life at Saudi Aramco today. Activities will include the annual Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast, a Half Moon Yacht Club beach barbeque, a Dhahran Tennis Association tournament and bowling and bridge tournaments. The Rolling Hills Golf Association is planning a special reunion tournament for players who wish to test their skills on the lush, new 18-hole grass course. Little League Baseball will host exhibition games, giving guests a chance to experience Dhahran baseball on the new Canyon Yards fields. The Saudi Aramco Employees Association will offer its ever-popular Desert Dinner.

Those interested in sightseeing and reminiscing will be able to take tours of Dhahran, Abqaiq, Ras Tanura and 'Udhailiyah. Tours of Saudi Aramco schools, local schools, medical facilities and museums are also being planned. Other trips include the Eastern Province Chamber of Commerce and an orphanage in Dammam.

Shopping visits to Dammam and al-Khobar, as well as day trips to Jubail, Hofuf, Qatif and Tarut, are also being planned. Discounts at local restaurants are being obtained so that returnees can explore the local cuisine. Optional trips will include overnight visits to Riyadh, 'Asir, Jiddah and Madain Salih. For scuba enthusiasts, a Red Sea dive trip is being planned for the last weekend of the reunion.

Baluchi said he's certain that the 120-plus KSA Reunion volunteers will make next year's homecoming special and memorable. He urged attendees to visit the Reunion House at 1423 Kings Road, where volunteers will be available to assist guests and answer questions. "They are fully dedicated to reach out and make sure your visit is comfortable and pleasurable," Baluchi said.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR KSA REUNION

Airline Reservations: Al-Tayyar Travel Group is handling internal and external airline reservations, hotel bookings and is negotiating discounted rates. Attendees may contact the company at Grand Travel Tours in Washington, D.C.: jmetzger@grandtravel.net or peet@grandtravel.net, or by phone: 703-532-0444.

Hotels: Negotiations are under way with the following al-Khobar hotels: Movenpick, Gulf Meridien, Al-Gosaibi, Al-Nimran, Intercontinental and Holiday Inn. Rates will be posted on the reunion Web site.

Transportation: Attendees may use Saudi Aramco buses free; taxis and rental cars are available in Dhahran or al-Khobar.

Costs: The Welcome and Farewell dinners are free. All other costs associated with the reunion will be borne by attendees, including air fare outside and inside the kingdom, hotel and meal charges, and nominal fees for various Self-Directed Group tournaments and activities.

Passports & Visas: All attendees' passports must be valid through at least October 2009 to receive a visa to travel to Saudi Arabia. Visas will not be issued without verifiable accommodations.

Conduct: Participants must abide by the kingdom's strict rules against importing narcotics and alcohol.

Medications: Anyone taking special medications should bring adequate supplies with their original prescriptions attached. Note that pharmacies are available.

Visit the reunion Web site for further details:
www.ksareunion.com



↑ Ali Baluchi, chairman of the 2009 KSA Reunion Organizing Committee, shows off the reunion emblem in front of Reunion House on King's Road in Dhahran. The committee looks forward to welcoming old friends back home this March.

→ **Cover:** Scott and Audrey Stanaland took time out from a hectic social schedule to pose under the Eiffel Tower at this year's Annuitants Reunion, held at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas.

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Retirees Kick Back In Paris, U.S.A.

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More than 1,000 retirees and family members pitched camp in Las Vegas for a glittering Annuitants Reunion this fall. The gathering celebrated old timers, longstanding friendships and the company's 75th anniversary—at the Paris Hotel and surrounding sports venues.

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They met King 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud as children in 1947. In May, at a wondrous homecoming, they met his son King Abdullah.

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Company “youngsters” and “seniors” found special reasons to gather in Nevada and California this year. Read all about their adventures.



View This Issue on the ASC Web site

Readers may view this edition and previous issues of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah*, *Saudi Aramco World* and *The Arabian Sun*, or check the Annuitants Address Book, on-line via the updated Aramco Services Web site: www.aramcoservices.com. For full instructions, stop by the Mail Center and see “Keeping in Touch” on page 5.

The Mail Center

Remembering Old Days In Abqaiq and Ras Tanura

>>APRIL 10, 2008

... I lived in Abqaiq and then Ras Tanura as a young son of age five (or six) to age 16, from 1955 to 1966. My father, George W. Prante, began with Aramco in Abqaiq in 1953, then our family joined him in 1955 and, to my recollection, our "Portable" house was the first to rise in a temporary neighborhood near the northeast (?) corner of the camp, across the street from our desert sand dune....

I loved my Abqaiq life because it was still a bit rough and rugged when we arrived, and having the desert 50 feet away from your back door. The swells, with the little wind ridges across them, made for excellent oceans for model/toy ships to a child of six.... If I walked a few hundred feet out into the dunes and just sat down for a while, I could hear my heart beat it was so quiet—yet watch a car go by on the street ... and couldn't hear it.... Meanwhile, trudging slowly by in constant earnest [was a] scarab beetle, rolling dinner home to his mate (backward), and when I followed him for well over an hour, he finally arrived at precisely his hole....

... Ras Tanura became home around '60 or '62 and I was really "at home." I was a race swimmer in Abqaiq, and now I was a Gulf swimmer as well, going spear fishing for grouper, normally. We had everything in RT that Abqaiq had, plus a Persian Gulf and pristine white beaches for mile after mile....

[In al-Khobar] one could step into a hole-in-the-wall store and find a nice item from practically anywhere, at just the right price for anyone's budget.... Families would make it an all-day outing to go shop there from RT or Abqaiq, but when us kids were old enough to travel the inter-district buses, we would go in there in groups, sometimes taking our girlfriends as well, but this was a hassle for them. Back in the '60s, the miniskirt had even arrived to Aramco, but our girls could only wear short clothes in the camps. So every time we took our girls/sisters, etc., with us, they had to wear [conservative clothes].

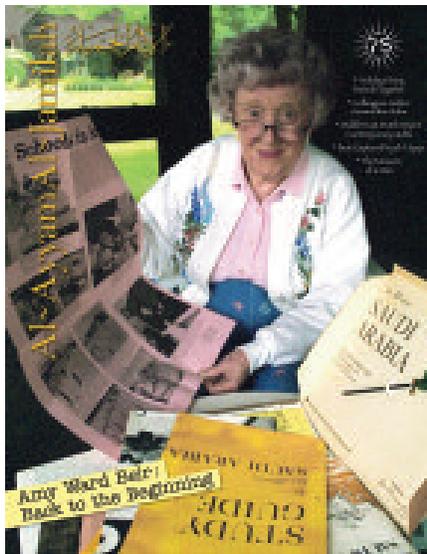
[At Aramco] conditions improved constantly, it was a near Utopia.... I've always had to say in my heart, "I'm American, but my home has always been Aramco and Saudi Arabia...."

John N. Prante
Box 999N36343
Pinckneyville, IL 62274

'Cover Girl' Sends Greetings

>>APRIL 27, 2008

Owen Oxley brought me the latest copy of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah*. I am overwhelmed!! Never dreamed of being a "cover girl" and seeing articles ["Amy Ward Beir: Back to the Beginning" and "Thomas E. Ward: Opening



the Door to Arabia"] that mean so much to my family. How I wish my father could see them.... I thank you ever so much.

My father's papers are all in Caspar, Wyo., at the university there. He kept a daily diary from 1908–69, which I am reading now, so am getting to know him better.

As I told Owen, most of my contacts at Aramco have died. One link still left is that Suliman Olayan's grandsons go to St. Bernard's School in New York where our son went. Suliman's daughter runs the office [of Olayan International] at 505 Park Ave.

Amy Beir
Salisbury, CT

Sword of Honor Displayed

>>MAY 23, 2008

... I met with Owen Oxley a number of times when I visited my sister in Salisbury, Conn., and gave him some information about my father. I proudly display the sword of honor which my father received from Shaikh of Bahrain that is mentioned in the penultimate paragraph of the article on my father....
Thomas E. Ward, Jr.
Shelburne, VT

Aviation Dept. Employee Recalls Pleasant Days

>>MAY 10/JULY 19, 2008

Having worked for Aramco 1947–67, Badge No. 4038, I would like to be put on your mailing list for the magazine "Pleasant Days." Enclosed for your info are items of days past.... I must say, looking back, that Aramco took care of us real good. Thank you for listening to an old man from the past. We do have some good ones to tell.

James F. Friel
11056 Grapefruit Lane
Punta Gorda, FL 33955

NOTE: Friel, who worked in the Aviation Department, sent a copy of the 76-man, all-expatriate department roster, from 1959. He circled Manager Henry C. Kristofferson's name, noting that he was the father of actor Kris Kristofferson. He also sent copies of aerial photos of Mt. Vesuvius and the Coliseum in Italy, shot in the early 1950s, plus copies of colored luggage tags to Aramco destinations including Riyadh and Jiddah, Qaisumah and Nariya, and Asmara in today's Eritrea.



Father Lived in Famous 'Sheep Sheds'

>>MAY 22, 2008

Thank you for the notice of my father's death in the Spring 2008 Obituaries of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah*. I would like to add a few details.... My father Erich A. Schur was indeed with Aramco between 1978 and 1984, but those years were certainly not the only ones.

Arriving in Ras Tanura in 1947, my father spent five years working at the refinery there, living in the famous "sheep sheds." He always enjoyed recalling anecdotes from those days. In 1952, he decided to take off for the jungles of Colombia.

It was during that time that he married my mother Ingeborg, and I was born. In 1957 or 1958, he returned to Ras Tanura and I followed in 1959.

Between 1968 and 1978, my father changed companies in Ras Tanura, but went back to Aramco in 1978. My parents retired in 1984, moving first to Hawaii, then France and finally Thailand.

Saudi Arabia, and our days in Najmah, have always held a special place in our memories.

Karen Schur-Narula
197 Natakorn Park Nichada Thani
39 Samakee Road
Nonthaburi 11120 Thailand

Ballard Applauded

>>MAY 25, 2008

I was so excited to see the letter about Pete Ballard. I was in that same musical [Gigi] and was the recipient of his wonderful talent.

Karen Fallon
aramcobrat@cox.net

NOTE: Fallon played Gigi's mother in the musical, which was costumed by Ballard and staged in Abqaiq in the mid-1960s.

"Karen was marvelous—all the cast was," said Ballard, who was featured in the Spring '08 Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah.

King's Road RN Recollects 'Arabian Nights and Days'

>>MAY 28, 2008

I was an RN at the old Hospital on King's Road..... Then we moved to the new Hospital, which we thought must have been designed by a shoe salesman in Italy....

I was in Arabia from 1952 until Easter Monday in 1956. I would like to have stayed, but as the only daughter I was needed at home by an ailing mother.

Anne Cuneo, RN
Park Village Assisted Living South
1511 N. Carter Ave.
Dover, Ohio 44622-9510

'Did you ever collect your salary in a paper bag?'

NOTE: Cuneo enclosed a copy of her story "Arabian Nights ... and Days," published in the Daily Reporter in Dover, Ohio, in 1961. In it, she asked: "Did you ever collect your salary in a paper bag? I had been in Arabia over a year before the government issued its first paper currency. Our dollar salary was deposited for us in a U.S. bank, but we received a generous living allowance which was paid in Saudi riyals. The riyal is about the size of our 50-cent piece, though not so heavy, which was just as well for a two-pound sack of them was quite a heavy haul home."

Meeting King Sa'ud 'Truly a Pleasure'

>>MAY 29, 2008

Enclosed is a photo of King Sa'ud with me and my husband, Capt. Jim Williams, USN aviator, taken in March 1966.

When I departed Saudi Arabia [in the early 1960s], I returned to Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Public Health Service. When I lived in Saudi Arabia my maiden name was Fansler and I worked in the hospital. I met Jim in D.C. and we were married on Leap Year Day 1964. Jim received orders for duty in Naples, Italy, [in 1966] and we traveled there by ship. Along the way, we heard that King Sa'ud and his entourage were boarding the ship in Palma de Mallorca and taking over a whole deck. By the time we arrived in Palma, he had changed his mind.

Jim and I went ashore to visit the hotel he was occupying. I wrote a note and ... sent it up to him. In less than 10 minutes, two members of his entourage came to take us to see His Majesty. He was very gracious and friendly to us and seemed happy to let us take photos of him. He presented me with a watch with his face on it. I cherish it.

When we were ready to leave, he invited us to stay longer. However, we couldn't as we had to return to the ship.

It was truly a pleasure meeting and spending some time with him.

Fran F. Williams
104 Bay Point Dr. N.E.
St. Petersburg, FL
33704-3806

→ Fran F. Williams and her husband Jim pose with King Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in Palma de Mallorca in 1966.



The Mail Center

Merit Medallion Clue

>>JUNE 9, 2008

In response to the article in the Spring '08 issue regarding the "Merit Medallion" [received by Joseph A. Hayes] and its history, I can supply only a few clues which might help.

I also have that medal, but not for any valor on my part. It was given to me by another Aramco, A.C. Vick, a retired driller. I didn't pay enough attention to what it was for, but possibly a Safety Award or a drilling-completion contest?

Elli Keenan Beckley
(Abqaiq, Dhahran, 1949-59)
1660 Homewood Dr.
Altadena, CA 91001



Searching for Sa'ad al-Shammari

>>JUNE 20, 2008

My dad [the late Elwood "Woody" Keller] was a diesel mechanic, answering an ad to work in Saudi Arabia a few years after the war. He was always being called at all hours to drive out to some remote place to repair some diesel engine.... It seemed he could fix anything.

We had good times back then and all of us have fond memories of growing up in Abqaiq. I would not trade it for anything. I think my mom may be one of the oldest surviving Brats.

I remember my grandparents lived in Dhahran and my grandfather Clem Gibbs came from the oilfields of Taft, Calif., and ended up in the Empty Quarter running a rig there. I have fond memories of visiting him (I am sure that I was not supposed to).

Before my dad died, we were able to find the family of a Saudi employee he worked with, had befriended and always admired. Dad always wondered what happened to

Hamid Ali al-Shammari, ex-employee #12696. Hamid died in 1992, but his eldest son Sa'ad al-Shammari, 55, lives in Medinat Abqaiq and still remembers E.F. "Woody" Keller.... I hope to get Sa'ad's postal address (he works for Saudi Aramco) as my dad wanted to send Sa'ad early photos of his father Hamid at work and of his family (he is survived by seven sons and two daughters). I want to complete this circle for both Hamid and Woody.

Mike Keller
jmichaelkel@comcast.net

NOTE: Keller asks any reader who knows Sa'ad al-Shammari's address to contact him.

Ex-Student Weds in Bahrain

>>JULY 20, 2008

... Don't know if I told you about possibly going to the Bahrain wedding of my lovely Saudi ex-student or not. Her father was a VP and Abdelaziz Hokail's daughter was also in that class my first year ('84) in Dhahran and then ... they went to Aramco-built Saudi schools. I connected with Maram (Dowayan) in 2000 when I went to the first reunion in Dhahran—she was just returning from Boston after graduating from BU. She really wanted me to be there on July 2 and I so wanted to be there, too.... Couldn't count on getting a Saudi visa for sure in time.... So we decided that we'd have much more time together at the reunion in March. She works for Aramco, but they're going to live in al-Khobar.

My little Ami, the Hindu bride [featured in the Spring '08 issue], wrote that she'll be back in Houston the end of August rather than extending her time in NYC. She said she's considering not getting a job and volunteering full time with the Obama campaign. Knowing her passion, they'd be lucky to have her!
Sue Koenig
susan_koenig@comcast.net

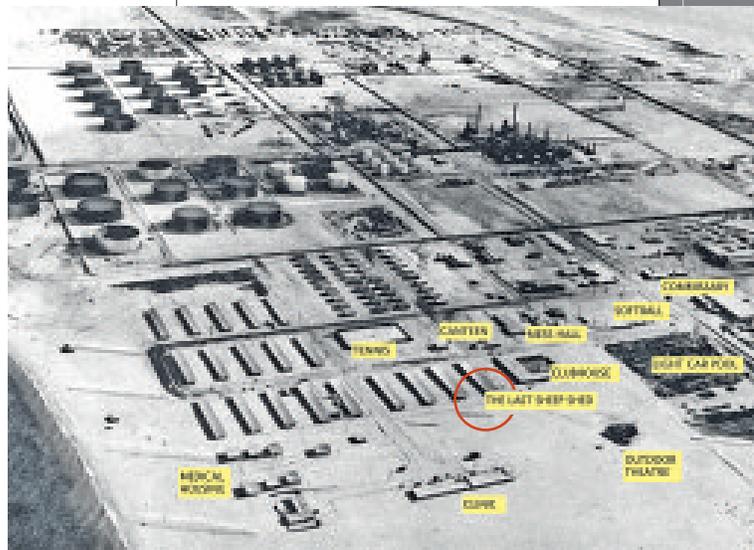
'Astonishing Discovery'

>>JULY 23, 2008

As I'm sure some other annuitants do, I sometimes resort to GoogleEarth to discover what has become of old haunts in Aramco Land. The most recent images appear to be not more than a year old, and they present what I judge to be an astonishing discovery.

At Ras Tanura, when I arrived as a schoolboy in 1948, the construction of Najmah was just getting under way. That new construction was then generally known to both Saudis and Americans as "American City." This, for the Relations executives, was a name that obviously required substitution, the sooner the better. But some expatriate families and quite a few bachelors were still living in what was formally "the Construction Camp," often later called "Old Camp." This was the area north of the refinery and along the southern edge of the present golf course. The living quarters in Old Camp consisted of 19 very long and very narrow buildings that all Americans called "sheep sheds," no doubt because of their resemblance to the elongated shelters built for sheep in the western United States. Internally they were divided up into

↓ The photo below, published around 1950, shows the "sheep shed" living quarters near the Ras Tanura Refinery. The Google Earth image at right shows what appears to be "the Last Sheep Shed."





rooms for bachelor employees and apartments for some families. Their yards were of blinding white beach sand, generally without any pretense at landscaping although feral Ipomoea scrambled around some of them.

There were “boardwalks” to access the entrances without immersing one’s shoes in hot sand. They were built around 1945.

Virtually all of the Old Camp public buildings that I knew in the late 1940s are, not surprisingly, gone—the “Rec Hall,” the “Mess Hall,” the portable housing the “Canteen” and the barber shop, and the tennis courts, although I can still point to their precise locations.

The old living quarters? Can it be? Right at the bottom of the paved road that now runs through the golf course from Najmah to what was Old Camp, there still appears clearly to be one, very long, very narrow building. It is just across the street to the east from the old Rec Hall site. I was once inside it. Its shadow on the image says it is still a building, not just a foundation. It is probably known today as “Building Number such-and-such.” To some of us, it will always be “the Last Sheep Shed.” Perhaps some present Ras Tanura resident with a sense of history might favor us with a ground-level photo.

Jim Mandaville
4540 W. Cortaro Farms Road
Tucson, AZ 85742
zygo@dakotacom.net

Tapline Query Posted

»OCTOBER 24, 2008

I am writing to contact individuals connected with Trans-Arabian Pipeline (Tapline) who might assist me in my doctoral dissertation at Harvard University. To examine the spatial repercussions of the transport of oil, I look at Tapline—in its planning, construction and operation—as a cross-border infrastructure that shaped the geographies of the Middle East.

I am interested in Tapline and its communities across spatial scales: from the housing plans, water wells and troughs in the pumping stations, to hospitals and clinics, air links and Tapline Road. Throughout, I look at this mega-project as it involves different actors: American and Arab personnel, *bedu*, *amirs*, Aramco, and the Saudi and transit-country governments.

If you worked on Tapline planning, mapping (USGS), construction (Williams Brothers or Bechtel), or lived in Qaisumah, Rafha, Badanah, Turaif, Qaryatain, Sidon or Beirut, hold issues of the *Pipeline Periscope*, pictures, aerial photos, documents, or want to share your Tapline experiences, your contribution to this academic research will be greatly appreciated.

Rania Ghosn
Graduate School of Design
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Cambridge, MA 02138
rghosn@gsd.harvard.edu

AOC Marks Birthday, Seeks Rome Office Info

»SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Sixty years ago, on Nov. 4, 1948, Aramco Overseas Purchasing Company—today’s Aramco Overseas Company (AOC)—was incorporated under the laws of Delaware, with its head office in Rome. In 1952, headquarters were moved to The Hague, the Netherlands.

AOC Public Relations would like to contact with people who have photos or documents relating to AOC’s Rome years. Please contact Femke Baudoin, e-mail: Femke.baudoin@aramco.nl. Thank you for helping keeping AOC’s Italian past alive!

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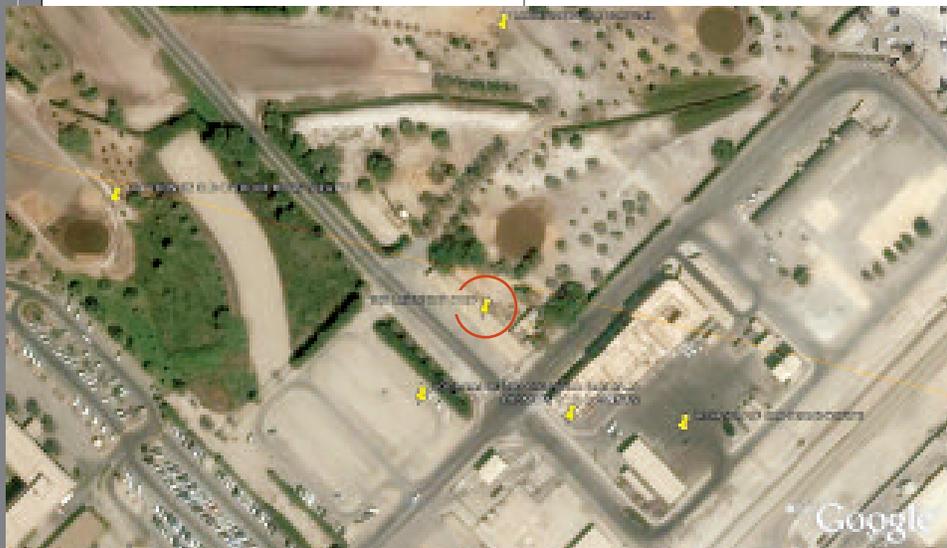
Keeping in Touch

Searching for an old friend or neighbor? Then visit Aramco Services Company’s online Annuity Address Book. It is searchable by last name and city, and can be browsed from beginning to end.

The Address Book is located on a secure ASC extranet called the Aramcon Connection, found on the newly updated Aramco Services Web site: www.aramcoservices.com. It’s for retirees only and can be accessed with a user name and password. The Aramcon Connection site also contains an online change-of-address feature: By pressing a button, retirees can notify ASC to update the Address Book, their *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah* subscription and the retiree database.

The site includes ASC and Saudi Aramco calendars, benefits and reunion information, and a description of the Employment Referral Award Program. It also provides links to *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah* and *Saudi Aramco World* magazines and *The Arabian Sun*.

For help accessing the Aramcon Connection, contact Edna Catchings at 713-432-8640 or EK.Catchings@aramcoservices.com, or Vangie Romano at 713-432-4133 or Vangie.Romano@aramcoservices.com.



Ameen Lauds Little Leaguers

Mike Ameen, who established the first softball team for Saudis in Dhahran in 1953, hailed Arabian American Little League (AALL) baseball at a dinner in Washington, D.C., Aug. 2 honoring the AALL team from Dhahran that had just qualified for the Little League World Series. Ameen, 84, praised the AALL program in a video message to the team and about 200 Washington-area retirees and Brats at a gathering sponsored by Aramco Services Company's Washington office.

"I wish I could have come up to meet you," Ameen, 84, told the team in the video shot at his home in The Woodlands, Texas, where he retired in 1988 after careers with Aramco and Mobil Corp. "I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you and I wish you all the luck in the world."

The team won the Middle East/Africa regional tournament in Kutnow, Poland, July 24-29 to earn a place in the World Series. It beat the U.A.E., Kuwait and Uganda, finishing 4-0 and outscoring its opponents 39-3.

The team fell to Japan 5-0 in its opening game in the World Series in Williamsport, Pa., Aug. 16 and then dropped games to Latin America (12-0) and Canada (7-5). The West team from Hawaii beat Mexico 12-3 on Aug. 24 to win the title.

AALL team members are 11- and 12-year-old All Stars from teams in Dhahran, Ras Tanura, Abqaiq and al-Khobar. Most are the children of Saudi Aramco employees. It was the ninth straight time the team had earned a berth in the World Series. The team has made

↓ Mike Ameen congratulates AALL team members by video in Washington, D.C.



it to the Little League classic 14 of the last 15 years, and 18 of the 23 years of its franchise, but has never won a championship.

Ameen said his first job at Aramco as Intermediate and General Camp recreation leader in Dhahran was to coach players including Ali Al Naimi in the company's first Saudi softball season. He said Al Naimi and his close friend Salim al-Haza'a both made the 1953 team—Al Naimi as second baseman and al-Haza'a at third.

"They were quick learners; they were in great shape," Ameen said. "They loved it. They were good. They were right out of the desert and they were lean—not mean—and fast and aggressive in everything they did."

Dhahran played teams from Ras Tanura and Abqaiq, beating all comers, Ameen said, noting that the game "instilled a lot of loyalty and [the idea] of fair play. At the beginning of the program, ... they didn't really work together as a group. But every day I could see improvement. It was amazing. It taught them coordination, leadership and they also found out they could depend on the guy next to them."

Ameen said that the success of the softball program helped lay the groundwork for the first Little League program, in 1954. Ameen said Americans and other expatriates turned out to watch the Saudi softball games and that the sport linked people across company ranks.

"It brought them together. They were sitting together in the bleachers. We ended up after the games having picnics," he said. "We even had a lot of volunteers who wanted to coach and referee. It created a wonderful community spirit."

'Postcard' Wins Amin 51st Gold Medal

A photo of a merchant arranging clay flowerpots outside Lahore, Pakistan, won Shaikh Amin, former chief Aramco photographer, his 51st gold medal and a best-of-show certificate in the "postcard" competition of the Canadian Association of Photographic Art (CAPA) in June. Amin sent

the picture, entitled "Ready for Sale," as a postcard to CAPA headquarters in Belleville, Ontario, Canada.

In September, Amin collected two more honors, this time from the Photographic Society of America (PSA): One marked 15 years of attendance at PSA conventions and one named him PSA "International Representative of the Year." He has served as PSA's representative in Pakistan since 1995. Amin said the awards, delivered before a "huge audience" in Portland, Ore., were a "surprise."

The CAPA prize was Amin's 51st gold medal in international photography competitions. He shot the merchant with a Nikon F-3 film camera using a wide-angle lens about 15 miles outside Lahore. "I happened to see him on the road," said Amin, who lives in Islamabad.

The photo "was a clear favorite with the judge's because of its compositional impact," said Myrna Sweet, competition chairperson. She said Amin's postcard was among around 100 received." Amin had won two honorable mentions in previous CAPA postcard competitions.

↓ This shot of a merchant displaying his wares won Shaikh Amin his 51st international-photography gold medal.



Barnes Looks Back On Radio Days

Larry Barnes, who joined Aramco as a communication engineer in 1947 and “noon-lighted” as a newsreader for Aramco’s radio station, went into the radio talk-show business in New Hampshire after wrapping up a 30-year career in Dhahran. He’s now hung up that hat, too, but he recalls his radio days with pleasure and claims he grilled politicians a lot harder than CNN’s Larry King.

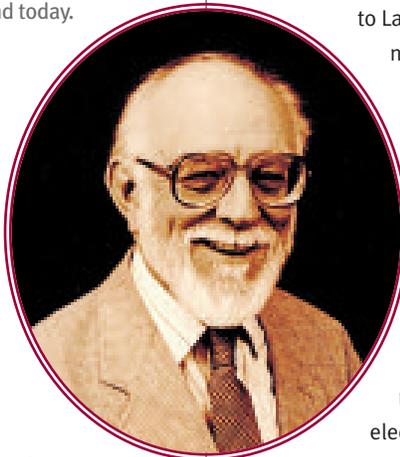
A story in the April 30, 1969, *Sun and Flare* called Barnes “the dean of the announcing corps since his was the first voice—back in 1951—to broadcast news to Aramcons.” Daily company

→ Larry Barnes, as he appeared in a 1969 *Sun & Flare* story, and today.

newscasts from United Press International lasted into the 1990s. By then, Barnes had already notched up interviews with the likes of Joe Biden, Al and Tipper Gore, Pat Buchanan, Bob Dole and Richard Lugar in New Hampshire.

Barnes, a Democrat, teamed up with a Republican in the late '70s to do weekly news show on the FM station in Peterborough, N.H. When the station moved to Milford, N.H., it launched a daily program called “The Talk Show with Larry Barnes.”

“I had a free hand on the show. I specialized in politics, but I would interview anyone who had a story to tell,” Barnes says. “I liked authors because I got free books. I stayed away from celebrities because, frankly, I didn’t give a damn about their opinions.”



In Dhahran, Barnes read daily newscasts for 20 years and then cut back to weekends, sharing news-reading chores with “a half-dozen employees and housewives,” the *Sun and Flare* reported. The first radio studio was in a shed atop the bowling alley.

“In the beginning, I used to pick up the script late in the morning, rehearse it while eating lunch and then run up to the studio to tape it, usually getting back to work on time,” Barnes wrote in *Looking Back over My Shoulder*, his book about Aramco. “This was strictly a labor of love. In those days, people used to do things as a service to the community.”

Reading the news made him a regional celebrity. “I once received a letter from a British army officer in Sharja addressed to Larry Barnes, UPI News Announcer, Persian Gulf,” he wrote. “I’ve even had people ask for my autograph, and that’s an ego trip.”

The only un-taped broadcasts Barnes did were for presidential elections. “We had an all-day feed from New York, giving up-to-the-minute results until the election was decided,” he recalls. “A writer came in and read the stories as they came in and wrote the script, and I broadcast it live every two hours. That was no doubt the biggest listening audience ever in the region.”

His talk show in New Hampshire, site of the country’s first presidential primary ran eight years, over two presidential campaigns. “I wasn’t as good as guys like Wolf Blitzer or Anderson Cooper, but I was better than Larry King,” he says. “I asked the tough questions, but I was always fair and polite. King throws nothing but creampuffs.”

Aramcons’ Daughter Up In Lights

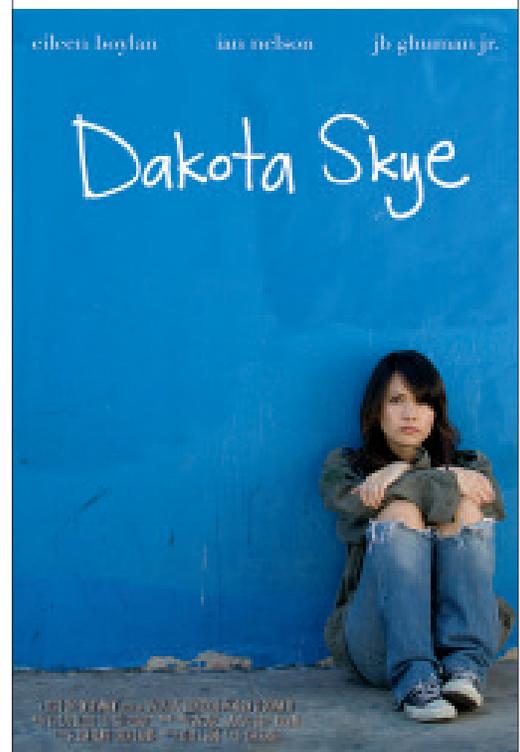
Eileen Boylan, 20, daughter of former Aramco employees Frank and Merlie Baris Boylan, is making a name for herself in movies, television and modeling in California.

Her biggest role to date was the lead in *Dakota Skye*, a 2008 film in which she plays a lonely 18-year-old who can read minds and see through lies. The brunette also costarred in *Making Change* with Steve Guttenberg in 2008 and appeared in *Sleepover* with Alexa Vega in 2004.

Making Change focused on the plight of the homeless, and Boylan took a personal approach. “The whole story is about finding happiness.... I had to live those circumstances and became friends with real homeless people and a whole community....” she told *Portrait* magazine. “That’s why I act. I help people see things they may never have had the opportunity to see.”

On television, Boylan appeared as Kyla Woods in The N teen network’s *South*

↓ Eileen Boylan, daughter of Frank and Merlie Baris Boylan, played the lead in the film *Dakota Skye*, released this year.



of *Nowhere*. She costarred as Ricky Schroeder's daughter in the Lifetime Original network series *Strong Medicine*. Other TV credits include *Sideliners*, *Judging Amy*, *General Hospital*, *Special Unit 2*, *Alex in Wonder*, *The Amanda Show*, *The Bernie Mac Show*, *Four Corners* and *Baywatch*. She is now working in *Days of Our Lives*, *Life* and the *Greek Family*.

Boylan has done TV commercials for firms such as Mattel, Radio Shack and Verizon Wireless. She has modeled for companies including Tommy Hilfiger, Union Bay, Talbots, Sears, JCPenny, K-Mart, Kohls and American Girl. She takes classes at Glendale Community College in Glendale, Calif., while studying as many as three scripts for three different shows on a single day.

Frank Boylan worked for Mechanical Services Department in Dhahran from 1963–85 and teaches English in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Merlie Baris Boylan, secretary of Aramco's Economics Department from 1978–83, works for the LAUSD Adult School. The Boylans moved to California in 1986 and also have a son named Tommy, born in Dhahran.

Oxley Wins Research Grant

Former Aramco photographer Owen Oxley has received a \$5,000 grant from the Artists and Writers Education and Development Foundation in Norfolk, Conn., to pursue a book project based on a humorous memoir he drafted a decade ago about the dozen years he spent in England before and during World War II. Oxley, 81, authored *Saudi Arabia—The Great Adventure* in 2006. He says the grant will allow him to devote full time to completing the new book.

Oxley worked for Aramco from 1949–55, spending one year in the New York office and the rest in Dhahran. He later became a writer and a consultant to several U.S. companies with interests in the kingdom.

He lives in Norfolk. He gave a presentation about his new book project at the Norfolk Library on Sept. 20.

Gang Savors Sun Peaks

The Over the Hill Gang of eight retired Aramcons navigated British Columbia's Sun Peaks, about 350 miles northeast of Vancouver, on a skiing/snowshoeing trip in March. "We proved that age won't keep us from the ski slopes," said gang member Anneliese Tedeschi.



↑ Over the Hill Gang members, from left, are: Charlie Simpson, Bob Allen, Jean Kennedy Roy, Alison Holloway, Dave and Anneliese Tedeschi, Peter Roy and Janice Allen.

"The snow was plentiful even in late March," she said. "The runs scattered over three mountains were color-coded according to difficulty and groomed daily. Volunteer 'Sun Guides'—mostly retirees—offered to guide us to the best skiing of the day and we made good use of them. Our hotel was located at the bottom of the lifts, and we skied 'out' in the morning and 'in' in the afternoon."

"One beautiful evening we snow-shoed to a trappers' camp, learning the history of the wooded area," Tedeschi said. "Needless to say we had fun."

'We proved that age won't keep us from the ski slopes'

Old DOG Finds New Joys In Iran

Lou Spencer, who retired from the Dhahran Schools in 2007, laced up his hiking shoes in May to lead 13 current or former employees and dependents, and two unaffiliated friends, to Iran. Spencer, who lives in Signal Mountain, Tenn., and taught school in Iran in the 1970s, piloted a dozen Dhahran Outing Group trips there beginning in the late 1990s, so the 10-day trip was a homecoming.

The travelers flew to Tehran, visited several museums, and then journeyed to Yazd in central Iran. There, they visited the famous Jameh Mosque, whose 157-foot minarets are the tallest in Iran. The group also visited Zoroastrian fire temples.

In Isfahan, 215 miles to the north, they stopped at a tea shop overlooking the main Imam Square to watch the setting sun cast purple shadows over the bazaar below and tint the blue tiles of the Imam Mosque dome. The group also visited the ancient Persian capital of Persepolis, and Shiraz.

Spencer taught for five years in Isfahan and Ahwaz before joining Aramco in 1980, giving him insights into Iran that he imparted to fellow travelers. He said it was a special treat to have Dina Tamimi, a member



↑ Pictured at Chehel Sotun in Isfahan are, from left: Bill Carrigan, Leigh Ann Devoe, Diane Stocklin, Ann Todd, Serenia King, Heidi Gerschwitz, Michael Reakes, Margaret Darcy, Lou Spencer, Margaret Rauh, George Kramer, Dina Tamimi, Paul Langham, Yin-An and Jim Tsai, and Marie Cronin.

of his 1987–88 fifth-grade class, on the trip. She works for Cisco Systems in Dubai. Her parents, Muawiya (Tom) and Orayb Tamimi, retired to Amman, Jordan, in 2003.

Iran also had a special connection for trip participant George Kramer. He worked in Tehran in 1973–74, before joining Aramco for a 17-year career in 1978.

Spencer plans to lead another tour to Iran next May. Information about the trip is available from him at louis.spencer@yahoo.com.

Retired Sun Writer Strikes Gold

When Chika Udezue retired from Saudi Aramco in 2006 with her husband Emmanuel, a doctor at the al-Hasa Health Center, she didn't shelve the skills she'd honed while writing for the company. In June this year, she won first prize in the "I'm a Columnist, Get Me in Here!" contest sponsored by the *Daily Echo* in Bournemouth, England, where she and her spouse reside.

Her column, about the agony and the idiocy of wearing stiletto heels, topped the list of about 100 entries. And it earned her a meeting and lunch with the *Daily Echo* editor, its top columnists and writers.

That column wasn't her first foray into journalism, not by a long shot.

After completing high school in Nigeria in 1972, she joined the then-East Central State Broadcasting Service and trained as an announcer first with the broadcasting house in Nigeria and then with the BBC External Service in London. When she returned to Nigeria after three months, she plunged into radio broadcasting. In 1973, she entered the University of Nigeria in Calabar. There, she worked as a part-time presenter and DJ for Radio Nigeria

Calabar and wrote a column about campus life for a state newspaper.

"I've always wanted to be a humor columnist," Udezue says. "I believe that sprinkling serious social issues with humor would be a good way to discuss societal issues."

In Saudi Arabia, where the Udezue family moved in 1988 from Britain, she wrote for *The Arabian Sun* for 16 years and contributed frequently to the publication's Viewpoint column from 'Udhailiyah. Writing for the *Sun* "opened a lot of doors for me and led to many other opportunities," including a job with Southern Area Community Services, she says.

Her most popular Viewpoint column was "Clueless in a techno world." In it, she admitted her ignorance (since remedied) about using the mobile phone.

Her most memorable *Sun* story was one about the construction of the Hawiyah Gas Plant. "I intercepted a truck carrying some of the huge equipment for Hawiyah on the road between 'Ain Dar and 'Udhailiyah and was running between the *jabals* to get some good pictures," she says. "I must have looked quite

a sight to the Saudi families who stopped to watch."

Udezue also wrote for *Dimensions* magazine.

In Britain, she has continued to do well-received work. In March, she wrote and published the first-ever newsletter commemorating International Women's Day in Dorset. She also developed a slide show highlighting renowned women who have contributed to the wellbeing of their compatriots.

But column-writing seems to be her forte. And, who knows, she may soon be doing it on a regular basis. "I'm already talking to the *Daily Echo's* editor and hope that something would come out of my winning article," she says.



Walkers Teach about Kingdom's Culture

Bill and Judy Walker, who retired in 1995 after 16 years in Dhahran, reprised some old roles this summer when they gave a presentation about the kingdom to a group of about a dozen children in Austin, Texas.

The hour-long presentation took place July 20 at the Wildflower Unitarian Universalist Church in Austin, Texas, of which Bill is a member. It was part of the church's World Travelers program, which aims to introduce American children to other countries and cultures "in a fun, relaxed setting that includes a lot of age-appropriate, participatory activities," said Judy.

Bill, a mainstay of the Dhahran Theatre Group when he wasn't busy with Personnel or Career Development tasks at the company, donned a *thawb*, *ghutrah* and *'iqal* for the presentation. Judy, who worked in the Headquarters Library and then the Recreation libraries, researched the written materials. She also modeled a Saudi outfit while serving drinks and treats to the kids.

In addition to showing the children souvenirs of their time in Saudi Arabia, the Walkers read stories (with Bill sitting on a camel saddle) and gave each child a coloring book, a copy of *Dahman: Mystery of the Champion Arabian Horse* by former Dhahran students Sarah and Elizabeth Spalding, a bedouin-camp diorama and an Arabic music CD that were provided by Aramco Services Company in Houston and the Community Heritage Gallery in Dhahran. The Walkers gave the children samples of Arabic sweets to bring down their show.

↓ Bill Walker acts out a new role with one of the students in his audience in Austin, Texas.





'Kids of '47' Celebrate 75th Anniversary in *Style*

Written and photographed
by Arthur Clark

↑ The old recreation area in Dhahran became an arena for festivities May 20, when King Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz met the "Kids of '47," seated in two rows facing the stage steps.
→ Some of those attendees, who met King 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud when he visited Dhahran on Jan. 25, 1947, are shown in this photo by David Duncan that appeared in *Life* magazine.



ABOVE: PHOTO BY ALI MUBARAK



Mollie Kennedy Brooks cried.
Steve Furman sported a mile-wide grin.
And Caryll Hayden Goodale fainted.

Those were just a few of the reactions of the 29 “kids” who shook hands with King Abdullah ibn ‘Abd al-‘Aziz on May 20 in Dhahran, 61 years after meeting his father, King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, at almost exactly the same spot. The event capped Saudi Aramco’s 75th-anniversary celebrations and proved a rich trip back in time. Many of the visitors had not been in the kingdom for decades and, while much had changed dramatically, some things remained just the same.

Brooks said meeting King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz when she was 12 years old had left a deep impression: “I was reading *The Arabian Nights* and I equated him with that. I thought he was a magnificent character. He took

my hand and his was so large he just enveloped it ... and he just kind of smiled.” Perhaps because so many years had passed, meeting King Abdullah “was not so overwhelming,” she noted. Even so, greeting the king was an emotional event for a girl who was one of Ras Tanura’s four eighth-grade graduates in 1948, and who returned with her husband Collins for 28 more years and raised four children before finally departing in 1977. “I started crying when I began to say ‘thank you’ to King Abdullah,” she said.

Furman was smiling because he’d accomplished his mission. After shaking hands with King Abdullah, he handed him a black-and-white photo of himself, age eight, and his mother Claudine meeting King ‘Abd

al-'Aziz on Jan. 25, 1947—and then convinced the monarch to keep it. “After I gave him the photo, he returned it, and I told him, ‘No, it’s yours,’” said Furman, an ex-Marine. Soon after that, one of the king’s aides caught up with Furman and asked him to sign the back of the picture.

Goodale fainted not long after greeting the king and receiving his thanks in return. She recovered quickly at the Dhahran Health Center and was back on her feet later that night. Goodale was just five when she met King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, but she clearly recalled that the monarch motioned her to approach him, touched her blond tresses and said, in translation, “She has the hair of angels.”

No one else fainted. But all the “Kids of ‘47” experienced one kind of emotional high or another on their five-day visit to mark the diamond anniversary of the Concession Agreement between Saudi Arabia and Standard Oil of California, signed May 29, 1933. That deal launched oil exploration in the kingdom and led to the establishment of Saudi Aramco in 1988.

The company contacted as many of the some 50 Ras Tanura and Dhahran children as it could find who had met King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz in 1947. The monarch also greeted the youngsters’ mothers and a number of female employees (about 185 in all) in what the Historians Committee of the time called “one of the most unusual receptions ever held by the king, who had previously received at his capital only a very few foreign women.”

King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, who was in his early 70s, “enjoyed the reception ... immensely,” the committee reported. “He smiled continually

as he shook hands with everyone present. Some of the children were shy, at which the king laughed, and others were very friendly, which pleased His Majesty even more.” Invited to have cookies and grape juice at the foot of the dais, the kids started “tumbling about in a scramble for cookies,” the report said, adding that the king “was enjoying the sight of the children playing before him.”

Each of the “Kids of ‘47” was able to bring a family member, and six invited one of their children. They arrived May 16–17 and visited sites in and around Dhahran and Ras Tanura. Some contacted old friends, sampling Saudi hospitality at its finest, and Marianna Mabry and her daughter Kamaria made a special trip to Abqaiq where they met residents in the town where Mabry moved from Dhahran in 1949.

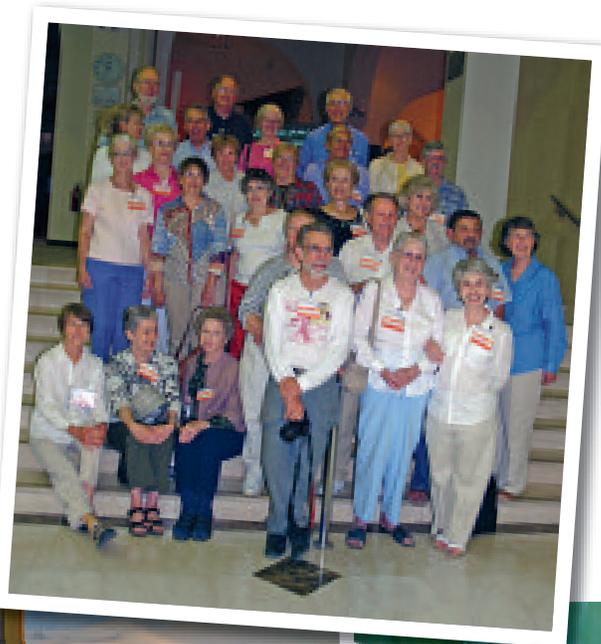
On the first day of the visit, the group stopped at the kingdom’s discovery well, Dammam No. 7, and drove a half-mile down the road to the Saudi Aramco Exhibit. Mae Mozaini, exhibit director, welcomed the visitors, saying she hoped they would see “a glimpse of the past that you remember.” She called the company “almost

... a family business,” pointing out that she is a second-generation employee and that her daughter also worked for Saudi Aramco.

Abdulaziz Al-Khayyal, senior vice president of Industrial Relations, struck a similar chord at a dinner he hosted for the visitors that night. “Saudi Aramco’s roots are Saudi and American,” he said, emphasizing that the company had kept close American ties even after becoming a Saudi corporation in 1988. He said Saudi Aramco had selected “Energy for Generations” as the theme of the yearlong 75th-anniversary celebrations and praised the returnees’ parents for the vital roles they

had played in building the company.

“We’re excited about the future because past generations have made it possible to look ahead with confidence,” Al-Khayyal said. “They laid the rock-solid foundations that made Saudi Aramco the largest oil company in the world. When we look at the bottom line it all comes down to people. Your parents are the people who made it possible.”



↑ Top and above: The “Kids of ‘47” posed for photos after visiting the Saudi Aramco Exhibit in Dhahran. → Margaret Anne Fitch befriends a Hobby Farm resident.



The Guest List

↑ Myles Jones and his wife Susan admire the view from the Port Control Center in Ras Tanura.

The “Kids of ‘47” (and their guests) were: **Ann Hebert** (Tim Barger), children of Tom and Kathleen Barger; **Luella Beckley Kurani** (Kenneth Kurani), daughter and grandson of H.B. “Beck” and Maye Beckley; **Marilyn Wilkens** (Karen Wilkens), daughter and granddaughter of Matt and Esther Bunyan; David Engen (Kasia Quillinan), son and daughter-in-law of Joseph and Doris Engen; **Alice Fullmer Jandt** and **Gregory Fullmer**, children of Elmo and Zuva Belle “Zoups” Fullmer; **Steve Furman** (Jane Furman), son and daughter-in-law of Steve, Sr. and Claudine Furman; **Mariana Fentress Guion Mabry** (Kamaria Wolf), daughter and granddaughter of Wade and Gladys Guion; **Joyceline Kriesmer** (John Kriesmer) and **Jacqueline Larsen** (Raymond Voscamp), daughters and sons-in-law of Roy and Pauline Haug; **Caryll Goodale** (George Goodale), daughter and son-in-law of Murphy “Bus” and Hilda Hayden; **Patricia Hills Finlayson** (Bruce Finlayson), daughter and son-in-law of Liston and Fern Hills; Claudia Dixon (Paula Hills), daughters of the Hills; **Cynthia Hills Anders** (Elliot Anders), daughter and grandson of the Hills; **Myles Jones** (Susan Jones), son and daughter-in-law of Murlin and Twila Jones.

Mary “Mollie” Kennedy Brooks (Collins Brooks), daughter and son-in-law of Gervase and Dolores Kennedy; **Kathryn “Katie” Kennedy Dewey** (Eve Kennedy Hern); daughters of the Kennedys; **Terrance Kennedy** (Bonnie Kennedy), son and daughter-in-law of the Kennedys; **David Lunde** (Patricia McKillip), son and daughter-in-law of John and Alice Lunde; **Jan Osborne** (Marcia Hedberg), daughters of the Lundes; **Linda McCarthy Schick** (William “Jerry” Schick), daughter and son-in-law of Richard and Mollie Schick; **Dorothy “Dottie” Williams** (Janice Baine), daughter and granddaughter of Walter and Daisy Mayfield; **Betty Ranger** (Claude Ranger), daughter and son-in-law of Charles “Rod” and Alice Rodstrom; **Robert Rodstrom** (Mary Rodstrom), son and daughter-in-law the Rodstroms; **Mary Patricia Lass** (Gerald Lass) and Margaret Anne Fitch (Dennis Fitch), daughters and sons-in-law of Al and Pat Singleyn; **L. Miles Snyder** (Sharon Snyder), son and daughter-in-law of Les and Dorothy Snyder; **Jim Tracy** (Claudia Tracy), son and daughter-in-law of Frank and Margaret Tracy; and **Judy Webster Bauer** (Christopher Bauer), daughter and grandson of Kenneth and Mildred Webster.

King 'Abd al-'Aziz recognized that fact and dedicated much of his 1947 visit to "meeting the people who lived and worked here," Al-Khayyal noted. "In fact, meeting the children was the high point of his visit."

Abdallah S. Jum'ah, Saudi Aramco president and CEO, offered his own insights into the subject at a banquet the next night for the visitors and company executives past and present. Among them was Frank Jungers, the sole surviving American president and CEO of Aramco.

"Welcome back," Jum'ah said. He called the company's American retirees "part of our family" and hailed its American foundations. He said he'd told an audience at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the previous week that "the success of Saudi Aramco is basically its American connection."

Jum'ah said Saudi Aramco did not break links with its founders and "sweep its past under the carpet like many did" elsewhere in the region when the enterprise became a national company. "Truly the American tradition, the American background, is our own and we built on it," he

said. "Every one of us here, retirees or Saudi Aramco ourselves, keeps a great amount of gratitude for the Americans who were here."

Jum'ah said that the number of U.S. employees had fallen to around 1,500 in a workforce of some 52,000, including approximately 46,000 Saudis. But he called American workers a "formidable, strong presence" and said Saudi Aramco continues to hire Americans.

"Politics can separate countries, but politics will never separate hearts. And our hearts are the hearts of the people who work here," he said. "We appreciate what you have done, we appreciate what your fathers, and possibly your grandfathers, have done for us, and we will keep ... that appreciation with us forever."

Tim Barger, whose father Tom joined the company in 1937 and stayed for 42 years, becoming Aramco's president and CEO, replied for the visitors. He said Saudi-American connections run deep. Speaking about the fire that broke out at Dammam No. 12 on July 8, 1939, he said a photo showed "an American and a Saudi at the head of the fire hose ... fighting side by side against a common enemy." It took 10 days to extinguish the blaze that had threatened the infant enterprise.

Barger said that the outbreak of World War II just three months later reduced the company to a skeleton crew of around 100 Americans and 1,600 Saudis. "Despite shortages of food, materials and equipment, [the men] maintained a modest but steady flow of up to 15,000 barrels per day to the Bahrain refinery and the Allied war effort," he said.

When King 'Abd al-'Aziz visited Dhahran in 1947, postwar expansion

was in full bloom, Barger noted. He said his six-year-old sister Ann was "thrilled to meet the king" and his son Prince Faisal. (Barger was born five months after the event.)

"When the king greeted the children and mothers of Aramco, he made each of them feel like the most important person

in the world," Barger said. "He could never have really known how much his recognition meant to every American he met that day. Nor could he have known how many American employees would spend their entire working lives in Dhahran or Abqaiq, Ras Tanura or 'Udhailiyah. He could not have known that so many of the children that he greeted that day would grow up in



↑ Clockwise from top left: Patricia Hill Finlayson (left), Cynthia Hills Anders, Paula Hills and Claudia Jean Dixon, daughters of Liston and Fern Hills; Janice Baine and her mother Dottie Williams, and Katie Kennedy Dewey and her brother-in-law Collins Brooks; kids of "Kids": Kenneth Kurani, Kamaria Wolf, Elliot Anders, Karen Wilkens, Christopher Bauer and Janice Baine.

Arabia [and] would know his country as our home.”

“We’re not Saudi-Americans, nor are we American-Saudis; maybe we are Saudi Aramco-Americans,” he said.

Earlier that day, the guests had taken a close look at their old home, visiting the Hobby Farm, the Community Heritage Gallery, Rolling Hills Golf Club and the Third St. School. It was high noon when they reached the golf course, so no one tested the new grass fairways. But the Heritage Gallery and the school got serious inspections.

In fact, the Heritage Galley, just across the street from the site of the old tennis courts where King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz met the children in 1947, really was home for David Lunde when it was House 1220 in the early 1950s. Lunde, a writer and a translator who lives in California, wrote a poem about the audience with King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz after meeting several princes in Riyadh and Jiddah in 2001, when he traveled there with a group of former Aramco dependents.

In the poem, Lunde says the king had “a black beard and one eye with a droopy lid”—frightening for a lad of five. But he adds that the monarch was “eating Fig Newton cookies, my favorites, so he must be okay.” Urged on by his mother Alice, he walked up to the king, who “held out his huge, hard hand that took mine gently and his kind, serious eyes smiled into mine....”

Siblings Alice Fullmer Jandt and Gregory Fullmer found their old home at 1636 Gazelle Circle—across the street from Steineke Hall—soon after they arrived in Dhahran. Their father, Elmo Fullmer, died in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1948, en route to the United States with his family for medical care. The Fullmer children and their mother continued to Bakersfield, Calif., where she built a house modeled after their Dhahran home. This was the Fullmer “kids” first trip to Dhahran in 60 years.

A number of returnees spotted themselves and classmates in photos at the Dhahran School. David Engen discovered himself in a picture of an early ‘50s Ras Tanura Boy Scout outing to Hofuf, posing under the walls of the Turkish fort. Margaret Anne Fitch found herself, her sister Mary Pat



↑ *That’s me!* David Engen spots himself in a photo of a Ras Tanura Boy Scout trip to Hofuf more than 50 years ago.

Lass and their father Al Singelyn, in a picture taken at the Dhahran pool, not far from their home. “Mary Pat’s pushing me in!” she said.

Many watched a home movie of the king’s 1947 visit. Identical twins Jacqueline Larsen and Joyceline Kriesmer viewed themselves as 18-year-olds approaching the king in identical polka-dot dresses. Neither was smiling. “When you meet a king, you get very serious,” said Larsen. “A king is intimidating.”

That film, along with pictures taken by *Life* magazine photographer David Duncan and several Dhahran mothers, provided costume ideas for

32 current Dhahran schoolchildren, ages five to 13, and 57 women—Saudi Aramco School teachers or mothers of participating children—who took part in a “reenactment” of the 1947 event. Their clothes, tailored in al-Khobar, were remarkably realistic. “Copying” even extended to real life: The Kriesmer twins were portrayed by a matching younger set, Elizabeth and Sarah Spalding, daughters of Jenny and Marc Spalding of Dhahran, who were equally svelte in their polka-dot dresses.

Most of the visitors traveled to Ras Tanura on Day 3, riding the elevator to the top of the Port Control Center for a view of the terminal and the Gulf, next to which a number of the “kids” had grown up. After a briefing, they headed to the beach at Najmah.

“You know, that first step into the sand is almost heaven,” said Katie Kennedy Dewey. She lived in Najmah from 1946–56, returned as a summer student in ’57 and ’58, and lived there again from 1980–87 as the wife of employee Lee Dewey.

For David Engen, coming home was discovering his old home. The tree he and his dad had planted in Najmah was still there. Dottie Williams found her old home, too, and shared it with her daughter. “I’m so happy. I got to go home,” she said. “I even showed Janice where the bedroom window was.” At first, Williams wasn’t certain what she remembered from the community she’d left more than half a century ago. “It’s kind of funny when you say, ‘I don’t know, I don’t know,’” she said. “Then it clicks!”

What clicked for Myles Jones was the memory of the day in 1947 when his father Murlin, foreman of the Ras Tanura refinery, brought home a gold watch engraved with King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz’s name. He had taken the king on an inspection tour of the new

facility on his 1947 visit—and received the watch in return. Myles Jones brought it with him on his homecoming trip.

Memories popped like flashbulbs at a beauty contest May 20 as the “Kids of ‘47” entered the celebration grounds in Dhahran’s old recreation area. They walked past 25-foot enlargements of photos of themselves meeting the king in 1947, nearly colliding with youngsters dressed up just like they were 61 years before.

King Abdullah was busy across town near the Saudi Aramco Exhibit at a colorful ceremony where he laid the foundation stone for a new cultural center named after him, when the Americans arrived. They got front-row chairs facing the tent where the king would preside over festivities.

L. Miles Snyder, who met the king at age 13 in 1947, addressed the monarch and the huge crowd for his companions. Standing under bright lights after sunset, he spoke of the enchantment of growing up in Saudi Arabia, the good fortune that had enabled him and his colleagues to shake the king’s hand, and the wondrous welcome they had received on their return.

The king “loved meeting all of us kids and our mothers and shaking each hand....,” Snyder said. “We must have been a delight for him to look at, dressed up in our best clothes, bursting with excitement.”

In fact, Snyder had met King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz on a trip to Riyadh with an Aramco employee the previous September. When Snyder went with him to report to the king, the monarch thought the darkly tanned lad was the employee’s translator and peppered him with Arabic. The mistake was quickly cleared up. As he left, the king told him, “Be an Arab,” Snyder recalls. Instead, he became a lawyer in California, but both meetings remain etched in his memory.



↑ Clockwise from top: King Abdullah greets twins Jacqueline Larsen (second from right) and Joyceline Kriesmer; the “Kids of ‘47,” with their guests lined up behind them, await the king’s arrival; Myles Jones shows off the watch King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz gave his father Murlin in 1947.

TOP: PHOTO BY MOAYED ALI QATTAN



↑ Saudi Aramco schoolchildren pose beneath a portrait of King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz’s 1947 Dhahran audience, ready to reenact the event.

“Our grandchildren read about Harry Potter for excitement and a sense of the magical,” Snyder told King Abdullah. “When we were young, that sense of magic was everywhere.... Each of us regards himself or herself richer, wiser, more tolerant and understanding because of that great adventure. Thanks to the hospitality and generosity of Saudi Aramco, we are able to return to the magical scenes of our childhood. There is no ‘thank you’ that can adequately express the depth of our gratitude.”

The “Kids of ‘47” then proceeded, single file, to meet King Abdullah. Twins Cynthia Anders and Claudia Dixon (daughters of Liston Hills, president and CEO in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s) were just two years old when they met King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, so they remembered little of that day. Meeting King Abdullah was different. “He had a very gentle and kind feeling about him,” Dixon said. Added Anders: “I was amazed at how emotional I got. He’s got such a warm smile. My heart just filled up with emotion.”

King Abdullah looked pleased throughout the celebrations, which were enlivened by brightly clad youngsters dancing to music ranging from *The Phantom of the Opera* to traditional Arabian Gulf rhythms. He

even joined a performance of the *‘ardah*, or sword dance, that featured both Saudis and expatriates.

The king lauded the contributions of generations of employees in his message at the ceremony. “Praise God as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Saudi Aramco, and take pride in the company, its past achievements and its past and present generations of employees,” he wrote on the electronic message board. “You have always been a role model for dedication, excellence, performance and loyalty to your country. I wish you, God willing, all the best in your continual excellence in the interest of the country and the whole world.”

Speaking through all the smiles and tears of the homecoming trip, Katie Kennedy Dewey probably summed up the “Kids of ‘47” feelings best when she said, “I’m thinking that Mother and Dad never expected it would be this big” when they took their children to meet King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz all those years ago. “You don’t meet a king just every day of the week!”



Paris was Great
At Reunion 2008!



More than 1,000 retirees and family members traveled to Paris this fall to celebrate old friendships and Saudi Aramco's 75th anniversary. Reunion hosts Karen and Albert Fallon, who grew up in Abqaiq in the 1950s and '60s and later worked for the company in Ras Tanura, chose the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas to hold Jabal Las Vegas 2008—the 26th biennial Annuitants Reunion.

It was time for “some fun in the sun,” said Karen, and most attendees agreed that the hosts and their assistants scored a big success.



↑ Above: Kicking up their heels at the Paris Hotel are, from left: Sheila Stevens, Karen and Terry Smith, Karen Rhoades, Charles and Sarah Hancock and Judy Germani. → Right, top: Leaning hard to starboard are Mary and John Pratt and Anne and Ted Seymour. Bottom: Some of the oldest old timers wave to friends at the reunion Gala. They are (l-r): Lita Johnson, Frank Pietrowski, Lucy Templer, Warren Hodges, Mary and Buddy Haug, and Rhona Messinger.



← Clockwise from far left: Photographer and author Owen Oxley, left, who worked for the Photo Unit in the 1950s, discusses his book *Saudi Arabia—The Great Adventure* with Peter and Elaine Cunningham; Gillian Asekun and Marcia Barham gather 75th-anniversary literature at the Community Heritage Gallery table in the Sideline Suq; Sarah and Charles Hancock collect reunion gear as they register with Virginia Henson, left, and Pat Christensen.



Saudi Aramco's gateway into the next 75 years and beyond," he said, quoting from a letter from President and CEO Abdallah S. Jum'ah. "You may be gone from Saudi Aramco, but in a deep sense, you really never left us. Your 'human energy' is an enduring legacy felt every day and everywhere at Saudi Aramco."

Fred Hilton, 89, took the cake as the "old timer" with the earliest service date. The petroleum engineer signed on in 1943 and stayed until 1958, including assignments in San Francisco and New York. "I feel so fortunate to be part of this," he said, explaining that he'd been attracted to the company by "the people and the professional environment."

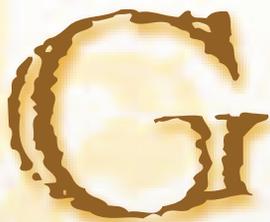
"Here I was—23 years old and deposited in the middle of the most wonderful oil area of the world," he said. "Can you imagine how happy I was?" Hilton and his late wife Patricia had three children in Dhahran: Jamela, Randa and John.

He said it had been a pleasure to be "part of the team" at Aramco and that he would "do it all over again" if he had the opportunity. Hilton said that he'd been to every Annuitants Reunion in the United States and that he was "never disappointed" at what he found.

He quickly linked up with fellow petroleum engineer John Calligeros, 83, a close friend at Aramco. Calligeros joined the company in 1947 and retired 38 years later. He said he and Hilton were among "the last of the Mohicans" and he fondly remembered old colleagues who were no longer around.

That, and the fact that Saudi Aramco was more like a family than a company, was a familiar refrain among the old timers.

Elizabeth Nelson, 88, called the get-together "a real fun trip.... The fun of it was seeing people." She worked



uests came from across the United States and a sprinkling of venues abroad. They spent plenty of time indoors as well as out, playing bridge or Vegas Bowl IV, or taking part in golf and tennis tournaments. But what proved most popular was simply reminiscing and laughing, in the midst of Las Vegas's glitter and glitz.

The number of guests at the reunion, held Sept. 28–Oct. 2, was second only to the tally at the 1990 gathering, also held in Las Vegas, which drew nearly 1,300 people.

Falling as it did on the diamond anniversary of the signing of the oil Concession Agreement, the reunion especially honored company

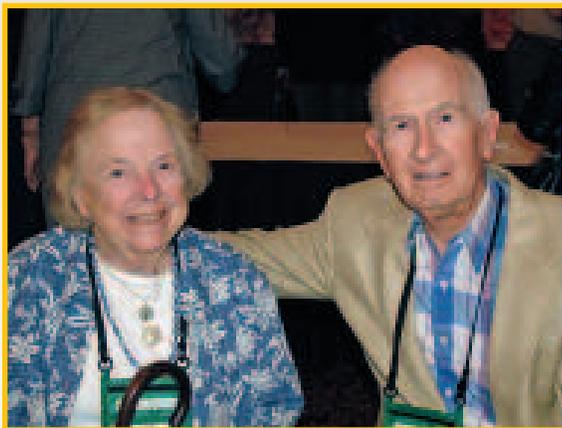
"old timers." At the Welcome Dinner hosted by Aramco Services Company (ASC) on Sept. 28, Karen Fallon asked everyone with a badge number of five digits or less to stand. Among them were some 15 men and women who had arrived at Aramco in the 1940s.

ASC Associate General Counsel Brian MacBeth also welcomed everyone, saying that reunions like Jabal Las Vegas "have long been an important part of what makes Saudi Aramco so special." He said it was an honor to help sponsor the gathering, "especially as Saudi Aramco celebrates 75 years of 'Energy for Generations'."

MacBeth expressed Saudi Aramco's deep appreciation to attendees for their years of service and for their continued support of the company. "Our annuitants and their families helped create the exciting history that will be

as a medical lab technician from 1948–53, first with Tapline and then with Aramco. “Everyone I knew is gone, but I enjoyed meeting new people....” she said. “It was fantastic ... much more than I expected. Everybody is friendly.”

Nelson came to Las Vegas with Doris Jarvis, a retiree she met playing bridge in Federal Way, Wash. Jarvis said Nelson’s “eyes lit up like a Christmas tree” when she told her she’d worked for



↑ Left: Fred Hilton had the earliest employment date of all the reunion attendees: 1943. He attended with his wife Diane. Right: ASC’s Brian Macbeth addresses attendees. ↓ Sue Foster, left, and Karen Irwin admire one of retiree Dorothy Miller’s portraits of the kingdom.



Aramco beginning in the late '70s and asked her to attend the reunion.

The gathering proved a "family" affair in more than one way for Ed Zinola, who joined Aramco in 1947 and retired as a member of the board of directors in 1978. He played in the tennis tournament along with his daughter Leslie Bosch and her husband David, and he had a good chat with another player, Tom Doody, about the old days in Dhahran.

"I knew Tom's parents really well," he said. "His mother had a nursery school and our kids were there. Aramco can be a very close family."

Zinola called the reunion a "very nice" affair and praised the organizers for their hard work. "You have a lot of respect for them," he said. "It's a big job."

Some attendees got to greet "family members" they'd heard about but never actually met. Photographers Owen Oxley, 81, and Bert "Curley" Seal, 78, who worked for the Photo Unit in Dhahran in the 1950s, were a case in point.

Oxley came to Dhahran in 1950 after a year in the New York office, and stayed for five years. When he departed, Aramco hired Seal to

replace him. Both men made their own collections of photos from their years in the kingdom that they displayed in the Sideline Suq at the hotel, where they met for the first time.

"Thanks to Owen retiring, I got the biggest break in my life," said Seal, who left the company 1960. "I was happy to see him, for sure."

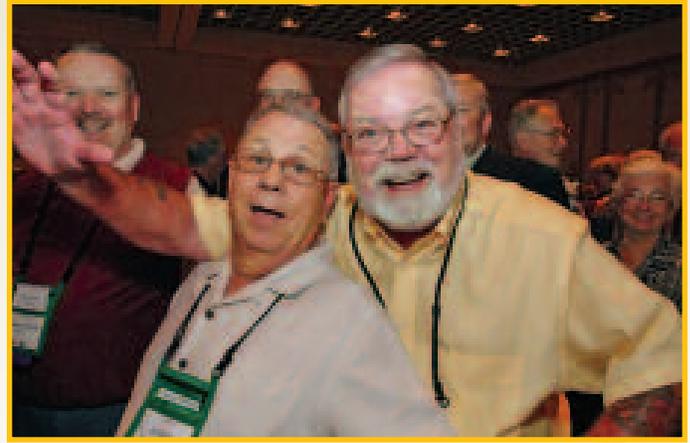
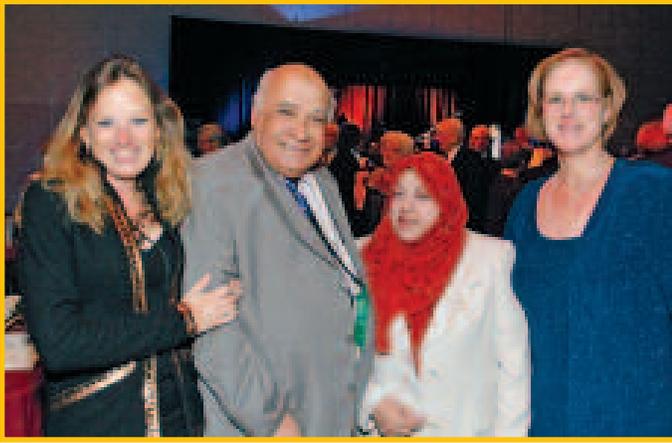
"I was expecting a younger man," Oxley said. "I looked at Bert and I thought, 'By God, we are a pair!' I'm pleased he's so pleased that I left."

At the Sideline Suq, old timer Ali Baluchi fielded questions about the 2009 Annuitants Reunion in Saudi Arabia, scheduled March 9-18. Baluchi, who retired in 1990 after a 41-year career, chairs that event's organizing committee. Nearby, on Oct. 1, Catarina Beresky represented the Community Heritage Gallery at a table thronged by retirees collecting



← Linda Esposito, left, and Linda Thorsten reunite. ↓ O.K. Thomas and Rod Fleck caught up on old times in the crowd at the reunion Welcome Dinner.





↑ Left: The members of the 2009 KSA Reunion group, Kathy Owen, Ali and Anisa Baluchi and Laurie Kelsch, pose for a picture. Right: Pals Bobby Riley and Neil Tarrant celebrate a night out in Paris.

75th-anniversary publications and logo flags.

Other tables bedecked with books, jewelry, Saudi coins and currency, paintings and old license plates filled up the indoor marketplace.

Mary Ellen Lorrar didn't display anything at this year's *suq*, but she may have a table in 2010. She showed off the printer's galley of her book *I'll Tell You a Story of Saudi Arabia*, about her time in the kingdom from 1952 until 1962. She said she applied for a job after her boss in Indianapolis, Ind., spotted an Aramco ad for an IBM tabulator. "He told me, 'Maybe you'll find a *shaikh*,'" she recalled. Lorrar didn't find a *shaikh*, but she did get married—to Richard Lorrar, manager of the Parts Warehouse in Dhahran—in 1964. He died in 1988.

Lorrar said she appreciated reunions because they offer "the only time I can connect with what was."

Next door to the *suq*, annuitant Dorothy Miller, 92, appeared in spirit if not in person at an exhibition of black-and-white photographs she shot during her years with the company between 1947 and 1979. The pictures no doubt stirred many memories among the retirees who stopped to view them on easels, or in a video display that was paired with Saudi Aramco's 75th-anniversary film.

At the Gala dinner on Oct. 1, Brian Macbeth outlined the company's enormous expansion program, aimed to lift maximum sustained crude-oil production capacity to 12 million barrels a day by 2009. He also highlighted Abdullah S. Jum'ah's request that retirees continue to serve as "ambassadors" for Saudi Aramco, which is committed "to help build a secure,

sustainable energy future for our world."

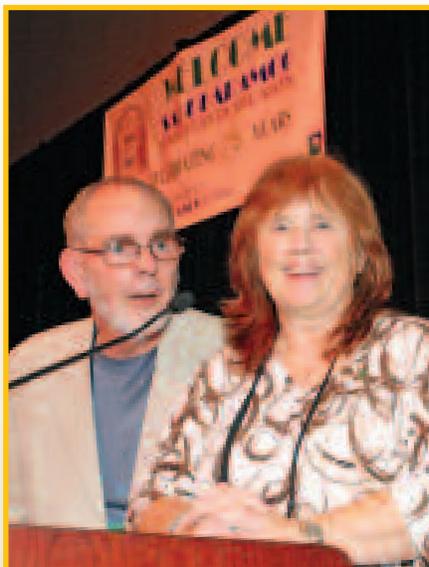
Macbeth lauded the spirit of the retirees, especially those who joined the company in the 1940s, '50s and '60s. "I'm sure that many of your friends and family members felt like your pursuit of an energy-industry job in far-away Saudi Arabia was little more than a high-risk roll of the dice in a giant sandbox," he said. But he quickly added: "I think you'll

agree that your bet on the Saudi Aramco opportunity turned out to be a true winner."

"There's no doubt that your many achievements have contributed to the company's success and will continue producing a tremendous impact for generations to come," he said. "All of you are part of this impressive legacy, and the company will remain forever grateful."

'There's no doubt that your many achievements have contributed to the company's success and will continue producing a tremendous impact for generations to come.'

↓ Left: Reunion hosts Albert and Karen Fallon "take the stand" at the Welcome Dinner. Right: Sally Milavec and Marge Fate linked up on Day 1.



Games Galore AT JABAL LAS VEGAS



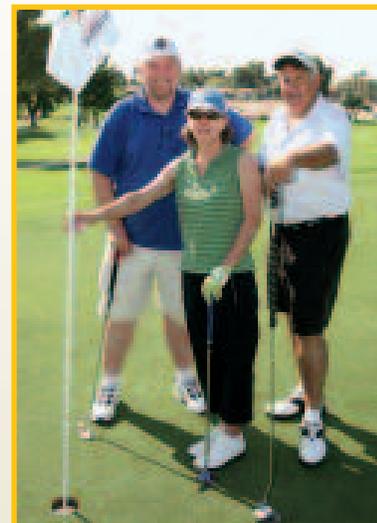
↑ Above, clockwise from left: Doni Mills, Gladys Turissini, Rosalinda Thein and Rich Turissini, pause for a picture. Right: Doris Jarvis likes her hand.

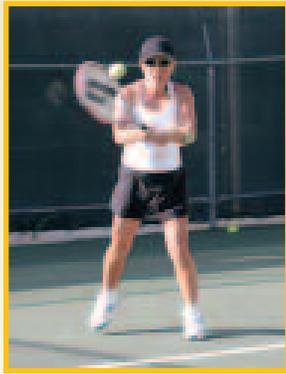


Bridge

Golf

↓ Left: Allen Hartmann, Marcia Barham, David Wilcox and Dennis Dugas make up a foursome at the Las Vegas National Golf Club. Center: Fred Aslan watches his shot fly. Right: Peggy Tate holds the flag, flanked by teammates Pat Thompson, left, and Bob Fleming.





COMPETITION RESULTS

BRIDGE

Duplicate

- 1) Rose Mowbray and Mike Shattner
- 2) Lois Miller and Jane Jane Stillabower
- 3) Rhona Messenger and Grace Wolfe

Social

- 1) Chaman Kansai
- 2) Gladys Turissini
- 3) Tom Sweptston

Coordinator: Denise Cobb

GOLF SCRAMBLE

- 1) Phil Wilkinson, Allan Zirgulis,
Penny Spaid
- 2) Byron Hebert, Mike Tate,
Carlton Parks, Jeff Schnell

Last-place: Coila Sims, Liz Stenstrom,
Darlene Dowell, Bonnie Clark

Closest to the Pin on Hole #1, men:
Buddy Vance

Closest to the Pin on Hole #8, women:
Sally Aslan

Longest Drive, men:

Douglas "Jerry" Doerksen

Longest Drive, women: Brenda Schnell

Longest Putt, men: Glyn Jenkins

Longest Putt, women: Peggy Tate

Coordinator: Kay Miller

TENNIS

Women's overall winner: Diane Jackson

Runner-up woman: Pam Keck

Men's overall winner: Mark Sawaya

Men's runner-up: Dale Brock

Fun prizes

Most Congenial Female: Mahala Brixey

Most Congenial Male: David Bosch

Best Dressed Female: Maria Collier

Best Dressed Male: Dwight Brixey

Killer-at-the Net Female: Leslie Bosch

Killer-at-the-Net Male: Gary Howell

Most Aces Female: Frigge Tugcu

Most Aces Male: Buddy Vance

Least Games Won Female: Lois Miller

Least Games Won Male: Janak Desai

Funniest Serve: Eva-Kinga Farnsworth

Best Shot of the Day: Mike Fillipoff

Coordinators: Diane Jackson and

Eva-Kinga Farnsworth

VEGAS BOWL IV

(simulated NFL Football)

1) **Team 4:** Keith McCormack, Terry Hamblin and Dan Cook with QB John Hadl

2) **Team 2:** Ralph Barracano and Bill Pinkston with QB Craig Morton

3) **Runners-up:** Team 1: Jim Maher and Byron Peterson with QB Dan Marino; Team 3: Bob Loeb and Jim Wallace with QB Dan Foust

Coordinator: Jim Maher

↑ Top: Jemin Martinsen keeps her eye on the ball in her match with Pam Keck against Frigge Tugcu and Dorthe Sawaya. Above: Byron Hebert reaches for the sky as he serves. Top right: Mike Fillipoff guards the forecourt as Carlton Parks serves. Right: Diane Jackson returns a volley. Jackson went on to claim the women's top prize.

Tennis



← Ralph Barracano, left, Bill Pinkston and Jim Maher play a round of Vegas Bowl IV simulated NFL football.

Vegas Bowl IV

Formal Photos: FAMILIES AND FRIENDS



Lillian and George Papp



Sandy and Corky Owens



Back: Bill Irwin, Jack Meyer, Mary and Duane Huetter, Phil Salstrom
Front: Karen Irwin, Ellen Meyer, Marge Johansson, Barbara Salstrom



Back: Karen Offield, Dale Offield, Paul Soane, Glyn Jenkins, Mike Degnan
Front: Karen Shepard, Edie Offield, Trish Jenkins, Gwen Soane, Marie Degnan



Back: Naveen Pedersen, Harry Bonte, Karim Hedjazi
Front: Connie Schmidt, Nita Bonte, Shirley Hedjazi



Back: Kay Siebold, Susan Husted Cowles, Tela Seim, Leslie Edwards, Roy Gunter-Smith, Bill Walker
Front: Norma Ackert, Lauren Flynn, Connie and Chris Robbins, Nancy Ackerman, Judy Walker, Lyn Flower

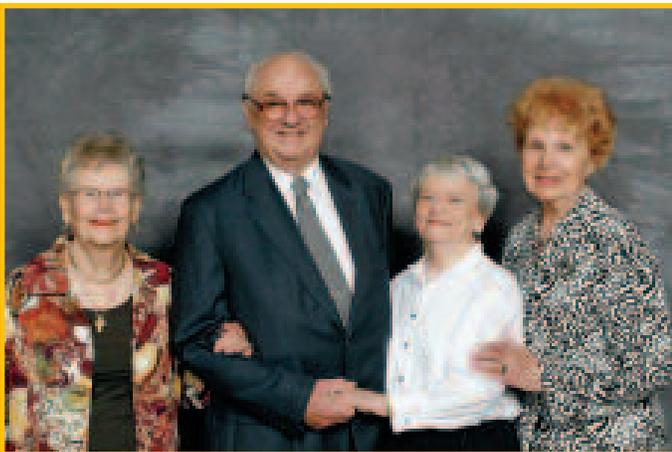
The near-record turnout at Jabal Las Vegas 2008 resulted in a rich gallery of photographs. The pictures on these pages and the 8 that follow offer just a sampling. Go to www.rarecapture.com and click on the white "View Photos" button to see the full range of reunion photographs.



George and Mary Pappas, Sue and Hank Barracano



Reba Hannay, Vince Pantaleoni, Mary Ellen Lorrain, Warren Boudreaux, Mona and Frank Mange



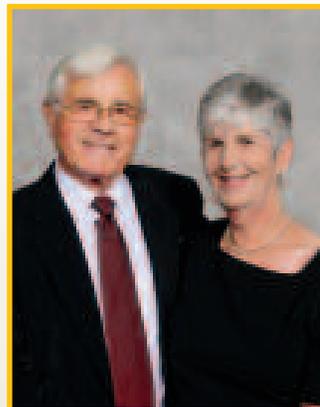
Betty Muench, Dick and Jo Ullmann, Donna Olson



Back: Richard Rhoades, Ken Swanson, Tony Germani, Byron Taylor
Front: Karen Rhoades, Carol Swanson, Judy Germani, Kay Taylor



Kathleen and Roy Gunter-Smith



Glyn and Trish Jenkins



Anne Goodfellow, Diane Jackson, Jayne Latshaw, Otto and Mary Knutzen, Linda Rednour, Skip Richardson



Pat and Bob Fleming



John and Cyndi Spice



Mike and Elfreda Fillipoff, Marsha, Lisa and Robert Lindeken



Shana Seim and Heath Palmer, Ted and Tela Seim



Back: Bob Tiffany, Jim Look, Rod Fleck, Charles Hancock, Bill Rome
Front: Jan Lincoln, Darice Tiffany, Cathy Look, Sandy Fleck, Sarah Hancock, Kay Rome



Ramsey and Bobbie Madany, Nancy Weeks, Kate and Crif Crawford



Marjie Clark, Eugenea and Erik Boehm, Margaret Ackerman, Mary Knutzen



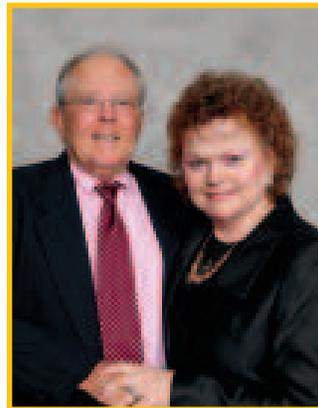
Ed Zurawel, Lita Johnson, Father Bert Samsa, Alice and Frank Jarvis



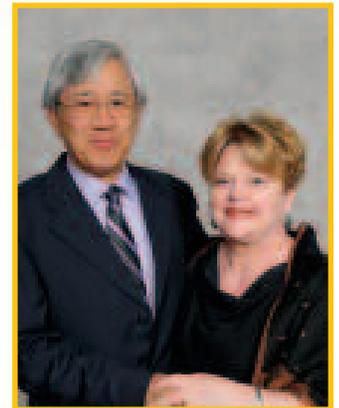
Chet and Mary Lou Love, Sharon and Axel Green



David and Wanda Miller, Wayne and Janet Kreger, Jan Lincoln, Judy and John Hines



Frank and Judi Corts



Wing and Nancy Loo



Ed Zinola, Liza Zinola, Leslie and David Bosch



Terry and Carol Hamblin, Susan and Keith McCormick



Back: Linda Brent, Carol Chamblee, Joan Short, Carol Poole,
Mary Ellen Kersavage, Shirley Crane, Ginny DePackh, Sharon Kay West
Front: Ann Kennedy, Maxcie Negley, Ann Wieland, Mary Feind, Ren Wicher



Back: David Walker, Mona Mange, John Spice, Jocie Kaufeler, Gordon
Flom, Jo Ullmann, Claude Allen, Val Perry
Front: Mary Ann Pettigrew, Verna Allen, Norma Quijano, Dotty Hulberg,
Marilyn Small



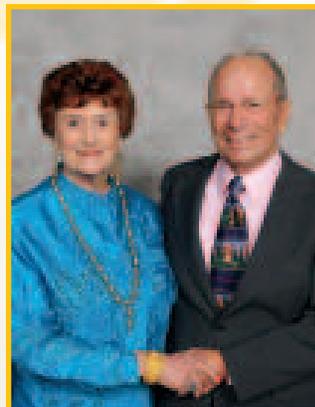
Back: Fred Merkle, Duane Huetter, Ted Seymour, Gordon Flom, Jim Nix,
Anny Seymour, Gordon Spaid, Phil Salstrom
Front: Julie Ann Merkle, Mary Huetter, Lois Flom, Lucy Templer, Betty Nix,
Barbara Salstrom



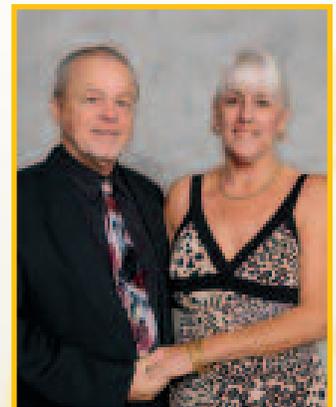
Back: Oran and Vicky Wilson, Guy Smyth, Melanie Sprout, Melissa Bordow,
Barry Snyder
Front: Sheila Kaul, Colleen Wilson, Sandra Adams, Charlotte Garlington,
Valerie Smyth



Cal and Doni Mills, Phil and Linda Rickard, Rosalinda and Richard Thein,
Suki and Tom Swepston



Mary and Buddy Haug



David and Linda Walker



ASC team: Art Clark, Alma Kombargi, Brian Macbeth, Michelle Flores, Edna Catchings



Michael and Patt Staley, Phil and Cassie Wilkinson, Molly and Bill McClain, Patricia and Wayne Powell



Back: Dave Lanhardt, Carol Hudson, Dick and Jeanne Ebner, Byron Peterson, Becky and Owen Kaiser, Layton Hooper
Front: Kim and Sandra Mauldin, Shirley Osborn, Donna Peterson, Vicki Hooper



Back: Charles Alexander, Ralph Barracano, Robert Brown, Mike Kandt, Hugh Smith, Daniel Pouliot
Front: Mary Alexander, Marie-Claire Barracano, Beth Ann Brown, Linda Smith, Ellen Pouliot



Back: Bobby Riley, Robert Shea, Harlan Moore, Mary Barber, Gary Deese, David Shaner
Front: Marie Riley, Ellen Shea, Kim Shaner, Ingeborg Deese, Glenda Moore



Back: Paul Miller, Glenn Raz, Robert Jeffery, William Pinkston, Ashleigh McLean, LeRoy Sutton
Front: Sandra Kay Miller, Dee Ann Raz, Theda McLean, Jo Ann Jeffery, Arvilla Pinkston, Marilyn Sutton



Doc and Sue Toups, Norma and Reynaldo Quijano, Millie and Jerry Doerksen



Fred and Becky Sigmon, Hedy and Rob Orkney, Sue Eckman, Henry Lane



Nhieu and Liliardo Esparza, Gerald and Lek Fouts, Suchiva and James Hern, Augustine and Thi Nu Vargas



Back: Carol Hudson, Wayne Muncy, Mel Misanko, Mark Young, Jim Shearon, Schuyler Stuckey, Renee Javorek
Front: Connie Muncy, Paulette Misanko, Chloe Young, Linda Shearon, Phyllis Stuckey



Rowie Welch, Delores Marshall, Sue Koenig



Edilia Carrillo, Karen Kukuk, Denise Imbault



Back: Bob Beske, Hugh Smith, Scotty Scott, Greg Mihal, Charlie Hudson
 Front: Sandra Beske, Linda Smith, Christel Scott, Rae Mihal, Kristin Hudson



Back: Dawn McCurry-Powell, James McCurry, O.K. Thomas, Karim Hedjazi, Gerald Fouts
 Front: Denise McCurry, Maxine McCurry, Judy Thomas, Shirley Hedjazi, Lek Fouts



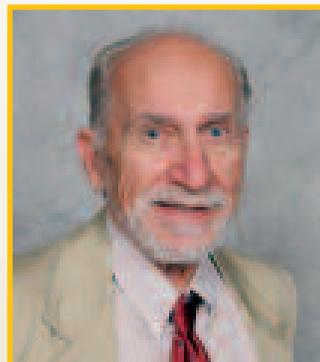
Vegas Brats: Row 1: Lesley Wernsdorfer, Laura Compton, Genevieve Glahn, Ashleigh McLean, Laura Curtis. Row 2: Nadia Collins, Janine Kane, Julie Sawaya, Keri Goldsmith, Linda Esposito. Row 3: Paul Wernsdorfer, Fred Bobb III, Andy Wernsdorfer, Danny Norton, John O'Brien, Michael Grimes



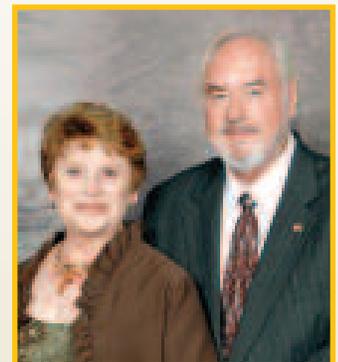
Maria and Earl Watkins



Jacqueline Ohler, Eugene Quarterson



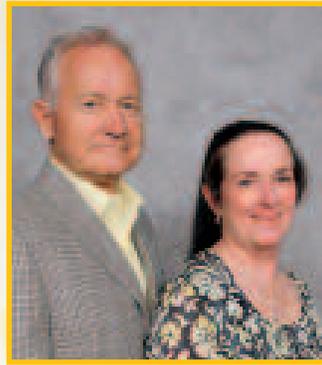
William "Wild Bill" Remas



Janet and Jim Anthony



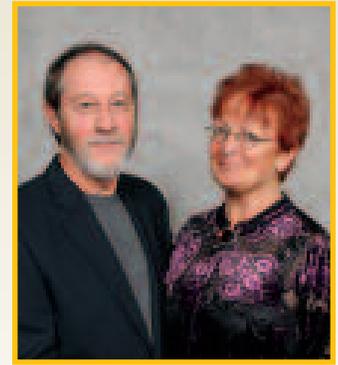
Geeta and Deepak Bhatt



Sam and Margie Matson



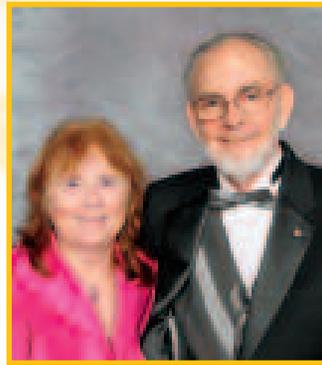
John and Grace Meyer



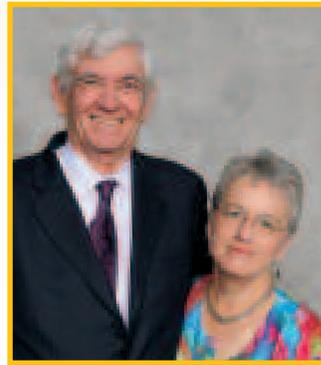
Jim and Val Perry



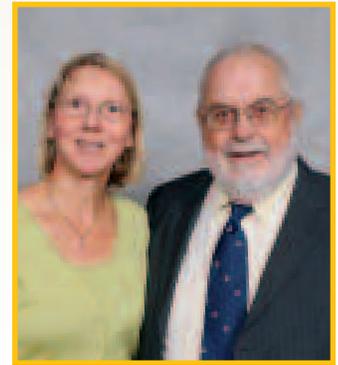
Dee and William Dobyns



Karen and Albert Fallon



Laney and Mary Ann Littlejohn



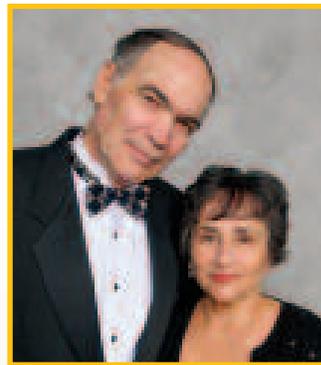
Satu and Sully Sullivan



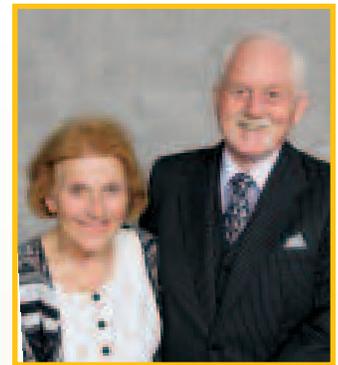
Najwa and Frank Sabra



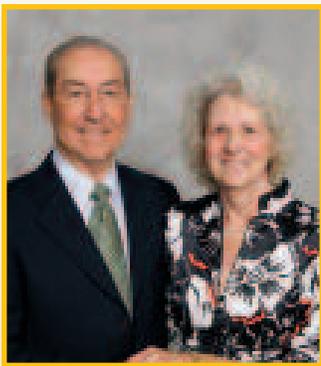
Nancy and Gus Koegler



Robert and Grace Banta



Ren Wicher and Andy Battenbough



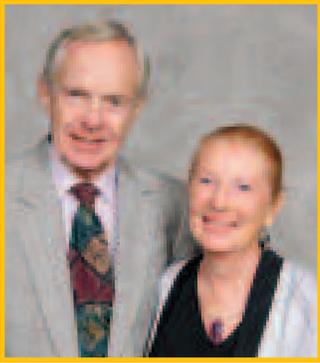
Kirby and Jo Ann Bunel



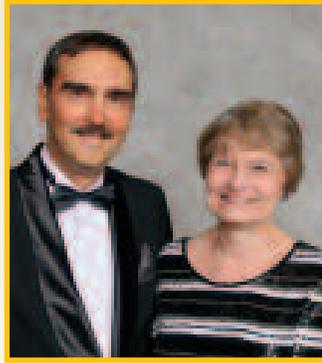
Renee and John Javorek



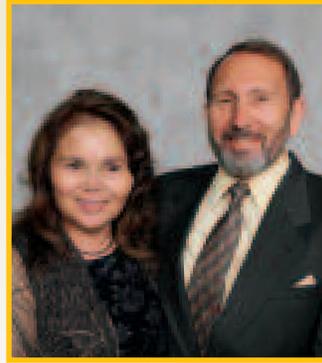
Goleh and Mike Petrale, Toni Jo and Victor Friedmann



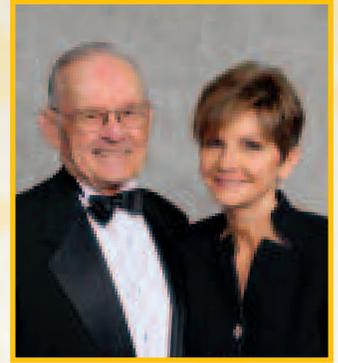
Peter and Elaine Cunningham



Jim and Patti Taber



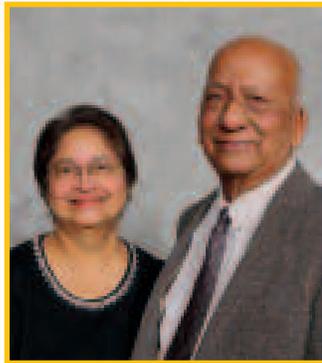
Penny and Lawrence Olsen



Jack and Leslie Edwards



Sue and Bill Ashby



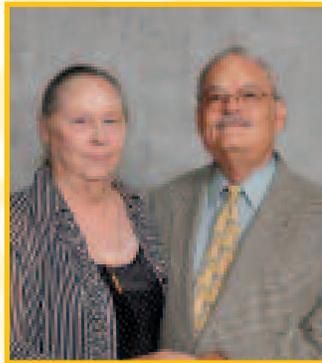
Zena and Tony Mariados



Joan Wilson, Lee Biggerstaff, Jane Durie



Melinda and Dave Layton



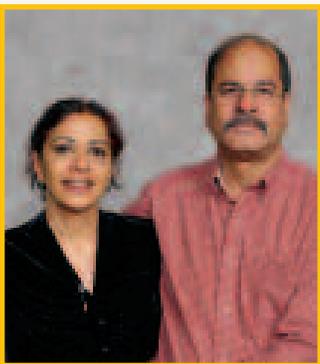
Shirley and Phil Workman



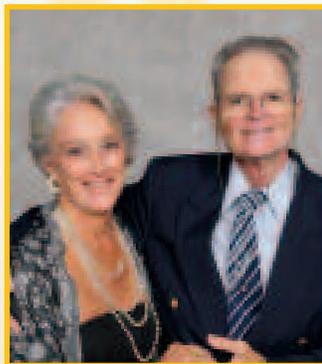
Rose and John Mowbray



Virginia and Zelda Lamp



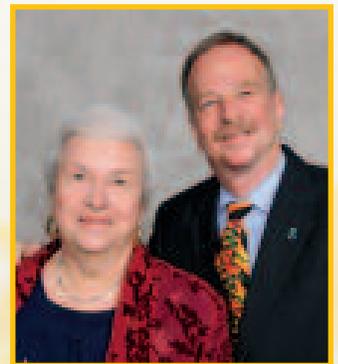
Meena and Kris Mohan



Linda and Raymond Cavness



Ron and Iro Smith



Jo and Bob Bewley

15 Years a-Growin'

By Keija Parssinen

Abu Muhammad brings two large bowls of camel's milk into the tent, froth spilling over their sides, gesturing for my father and me to taste. Immediately, my dad begins muttering about a milk allergy, shaking his head in exaggerated disappointment as if camel's milk is something he's had to give up reluctantly after a bitter dietary battle. I practically laugh out loud at his lack of gastronomical fortitude.

Here is a man who has lived in the Saudi Arabia for nearly 30 years, gratefully and unflinchingly consuming every new concoction placed before him, suddenly balking at a little camel's milk. Perhaps it is a bit too close to nature for his tastes,

as we've just seen a Sudanese milk the camel. Regardless, Abu Muhammad can't understand a word of my dad's spurious claims, so he presses a couple of dates into his hand and demonstrates how to proceed: He squashes a date flat, pits it and then uses it to scoop out the foam atop the milk. As Abu Muhammad explains through his cousin Bandar, novices can only handle the foam, not the milk, as the latter can cause intense gastrointestinal distress for unaccustomed stomachs. Since we are in the middle of nowhere, just south of the border with Kuwait, we're grateful for the warning. The dates and foam combine to create a pleasingly sugary confection, at once chewy and light as air.

In January, I returned to Saudi Arabia for the first time in 15 years, and my dad and I shared many such adventures. When my family left Dhahran in 1992, I never thought I'd go back to Saudi Arabia. Even at age 12, I understood the finality of the words "leaving for good," that forbidding expression that Aramcons use to describe final repatriation. My family had a going-away party at the Aramco beach and I threw myself off the giant dune with particular vigor, diving into the Gulf, feet flailing in the inky water just past the drop-off. I had to get my fill: of the salty sea, the sand, Mirinda, my friends. One last hurrah before I had to leave everything behind. For good.

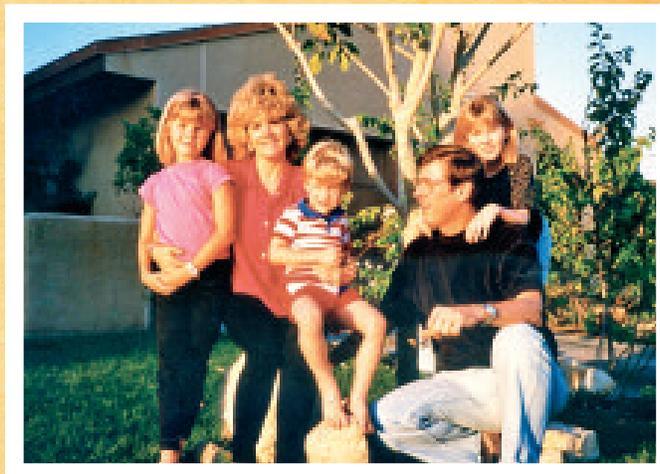
We moved to Austin, Texas, where I started sixth grade, but I ached for Saudi Arabia, for the home that had been taken from me prematurely. Even in high school, when people asked me where my family was from, I always said, "Saudi Arabia." They would eye my blonde hair incredulously, and I could feel my faith in my family's roots faltering.

Therein lies the expatriate's, or more particularly, the expatriate child's, conundrum: After spending years in a

place, perhaps being born there, you feel that you are *from* that place when you actually are not. Some people cannot come to terms with it. Take my mother Cathie. In 1951, she arrived in the Kingdom with her parents, Floyd and Willette Teel. They came aboard the *Flying Camel* and settled at 4151 Kings Road in Dhahran. My grandfather worked as an industrial engineer and served as president of the Tennis Association and the Aramco Employees Association.

Though my grandparents retired in 1969, Mom managed to find a way back into the Saudi fold just four years later when my

→ Young Keija Parssinen, left, stands alongside her mother Cathie, her father Jon and her siblings John and Tarja in front of 304 Prairie View in Dhahran in the mid-1980s. Below, the author's grandfather Floyd Teel stands fifth from left at a golf tournament between Qatar and Aramco players in that he helped organize in Dhahran.



father Jon took a job (at her urging) as a social sciences professor at the then-University of Petroleum and Minerals. I was born at al-Khobar's Al Salama Hospital in 1980, the year before my father began a new job with Aramco in management training in Ras Tanura. When my parents, my sister Tarja and I settled into our new home in RT, my mom was excited to have all of those Aramco luxuries again: the commissary, the schools, the wonderful medical and dental services.

She would no longer have to go for months without lettuce, but perhaps most importantly, she had found a way back "home." And she's not alone. A number of Aramcons are second-, third- and even fourth-generation. They know that the only way to sustain access to "home" is to find a job at Aramco, and so they do, decade after decade.

As the years passed, Dhahran became more dreamlike to me. Arabia teased from across the ocean: in *National Geographic*, the camels of Madain Salih, their shadows dark against the red cliffs; in our living room, a red rug spread across the floor like a blood-colored sunset over the Gulf. I could no longer remember street names, and the blue of the Third St. Pool, the green of the Bermuda grass and the red of the hibiscus were fading from memory.

'I only felt like an outsider for a split second before the women drew me into their conversation.'

To keep Dhahran alive in my mind, I started writing a novel set in the kingdom, and that book has been my obsession for the past two and a half years. As a psychological phenomenon, it isn't unusual. Many Brats do something to keep the connection. This was my way of trying to understand the place where I spent the first dozen years of my life,

a place of infinite religious, cultural and political intricacies whose potential for global impact I only became seriously aware of after the events of Sept. 11, 2001. At that moment, it became painfully clear that the place and the people that I felt such familiarity with were in many ways alien to me. I cursed the insular nature of my childhood experience, and I grew determined to understand more about the elusive kingdom where I was born.

When my father took a job with the Zamil Group and moved back to Saudi Arabia in mid-2003, just after the start of one of the most violent periods in modern Saudi history, I was scared for him but secretly overjoyed for myself. Having an immediate family member there meant that I could easily secure a visa, and I began plotting the return that most Brats fantasize about. In the fall of

↓ Jon Parsinen smiles at the women's *suq* in Nariya, about three hours north of Dhahran.



2007, I bought my ticket and asked my dad to set the visa gears in motion.

I was incredibly excited to go back to Saudi Arabia, but I was also anxious. Would seeing the place where I grew up through adult eyes forever destroy those tender childhood memories? Would anti-American sentiment, about which I read so much in newspapers and magazines, be palpable? In addition, since my father no longer worked for Aramco, I'd stay with family friends in al-Khobar. I'd be immersed in Saudi culture, wearing an 'abayah, eating *kabsah* and seeing the kingdom as I'd never seen it before. I was thrilled and a bit frightened.

Stepping off the plane onto the tarmac in Bahrain, I felt the blast of humid air against my face and smelled the salt of the nearby Gulf. My father and his friend Saeed met me at the airport. The journey across the causeway the next morning was fitting given the mythology I'd constructed around Saudi Arabia over the previous 15 years. The water was Technicolor blue, the road an endless ribbon. Surely this was the appropriate way to be deposited back into my own Neverland.

For the first several days, I was a guest in Ali Baluchi's home in al-Khobar, where he and his wife Anisa made me feel welcome from the start. Ali, who retired in 1990 after 41 years with Aramco, is beloved by hundreds of expatriates for the elaborate in-kingdom reunions he organizes and for his good care when he was general manager of Community Services. He began working for Aramco when he was 15, taking the bus from al-Khobar to Dhahran or walking the eight miles when he missed it. He was a dear friend of my grandparents and has known my mom since she was a little girl.

It was Thursday and he was preparing to host a large luncheon for the extended family. As soon as the first guests arrived, the men disappeared into their sitting room, leaving me to fend for myself as more and more women arrived, their children streaming in behind them and creating a happy cacophony. I only felt like an outsider for a split second before the women drew me into their conversation. We sat on the carpet with a most impressive feast laid before us: wheat soup, *margoog*, salad and shrimp *kabsah*, followed by coffee, sweet tea and dessert.

By the end of the meal, I had made several new friends and received a flurry of invitations to visit the women in their homes. It was a wonderful welcome back to Saudi Arabia, and it put to rest my anxieties about feeling like a stranger in a strange land. The luncheon also marked the start of 16 days of amazing meals. I felt



↑ The author got acquainted with a number of local animals on her trip. The falcon came from a group that included birds worth as much as \$50,000.

privileged to connect with so many people who were and are dear to my parents now that I am an adult and can fully appreciate their kindness and hospitality.

What struck me most on my return was how much al-Khobar had changed and how little Dhahran had, in strictly physical terms. Al-Khobar is a boom town, with three malls the size of large football stadiums and more on the way, chic European coffee shops on



↑ On the beach, 1992: Keija Parssinen, back row, fourth from left, poses with friends (l-r): Laura Hebert, a girl named Shelly, Tania Abbas, Lisa Plank, Alison Walkden and Courtney Sizemore. Front row: Irene Rivera, Marlo Goff, David Smith, Adam Edmison and Neil Mehta.

many streets, and an exclusive new beachfront community that could easily be mistaken for a high-end resort in Southern California if not for the women wearing the *‘abayah* and *niqab*. The entire city seemed to be under construction, and the steady sound of jackhammers blended with the daily calls to prayer. By contrast, when I pulled through the main gate, now actually two gates, at Saudi Aramco I recognized the terrain immediately: the old administration buildings, the beautiful mosque, the wide boulevards and the meticulous landscaping.

In Dhahran, I stayed with Nabil al-Khowaiter and his family. Nabil, one of my father’s former students from his days as a management trainer, represents a distinct brand of Saudi multiculturalism that bloomed out of the country’s feverishly paced development and subsequent globalization in the second half of the 20th century.

He comes from a deeply religious Saudi family, is married to a Turk and they are raising their two children to speak Arabic, English, Turkish and French. He was educated at the Aramco Schools and, by correspondence, the Saudi Government schools, and he attended Texas A&M University. As a result, he is an intellectual and cultural hybrid. While I envy him his global perspective and his heterogeneous identity, I cannot help but wonder how difficult it must be for him to reconcile the varied sensibilities that are the outgrowth of such an upbringing. Many of my parents’ Saudi and Arab friends who are Western-educated yet rooted in

the kingdom embody the complexities inherent in a society that has undergone some of the most rapid changes of any nation in the world over the last half century.

I borrowed Nabil’s bike and rode around Dhahran for hours. The woman gardening at P304, my family’s old house on Prairie View, very graciously let me peek inside. It was brimming with boxes since she had just arrived a few weeks before to join her husband.

In truth, I was unsettled by how unchanged the house and the community were. The most notable differences that I observed included the new mosque behind the Hills School, as well as the 12-foot wall surrounding the school complex that prevented a good look at the school or the pool. Throughout my trip, there were reminders of the heightened tension in the 21st-century kingdom: the gates, the walls, and the concrete barricades and razor wire outside of the Oasis Compound in al-Khobar, where 22 people died in a hostage crisis in May 2004.

As I rode around Dhahran, I noticed the fighter jets that periodically screamed overhead. I remembered them as the ambient noise of my youth, but on my return they seemed to represent a more sinister world—at least one of which I was now more aware.

They are there to help ensure that nothing disrupts the oil industry. Coming back to Dhahran, I did not simply feel the cushy sensation of nostalgia, a word that literally means “return home.” On my tour around the administration buildings by the gate, I felt the power of one of the world’s most important corporations. I saw its gleam.

I heard its hum. I felt its rumble. It made me shiver.

But change is not just measured in physical landscapes. The face of Aramco has changed significantly since my family’s days. Thanks in part to Saudization, many more Saudis now live in Dhahran, though by law they cannot send their children to the Saudi Aramco schools. Americans are still there, to be sure, but their numbers have dropped significantly. In 1992, around eight percent of the company’s 47,000 employees, or 3,760, were American. At the end of 2007, there were less than half that many (1,560) in a 52,000-plus workforce. By contrast, the number of Saudis has risen from 72 percent to 87 percent of the workforce in the last 15 years. While it was sad for me to realize that fewer and fewer American children are experiencing the strange and strong bond of being raised as Aramco Brats, the changes occurring are obviously in Saudi Arabia’s best interest.

It was a pleasure to be able to pedal through familiar neighborhoods again, but I also wanted to see Saudi Arabia in a new way. One day stands out for the multitude of new experiences it afforded. My father currently works near the Kuwaiti border in a region famous for its winter camping. Several of his coworkers are from well-known Bedouin tribes, and he is friends with a young local man named Bandar, who graciously agreed to show us around

‘I felt the power of one of the world’s most important corporations. It made me shiver.’

the area. Leaving the glitz of al-Khobar for the sparseness of the desert felt cleansing, and as we made the three-hour drive north I forgot myself staring at the endless, scrub-covered desert, interrupted only by the power lines stretched like metal arbors to the horizon.

Aside from a few camping trips with my friend Lisa Plank and her family, I never spent much time in the desert, so to feel the sand shifting beneath my feet and the north wind whipping hard against my face was quite moving. Traveling with Bandar in his Land Cruiser, we went first to a falcon shop where I held one of the heavy, hooded raptors. We stopped by a camping outfitter selling nylon tents shaped to look like traditional camel-hair ones. And I finally got to ride a camel, a formidable white beast tended by Bandar’s cousin, Abu Muhammad.

The most stirring moment came when Abu Muhammad, Bandar and the two Sudanese working at the camel-breeding pen knelt in the sand to say the noon prayer. Abu Muhammad performed the call to prayer, singing it strongly as he and the others prayed. The canvas tent flapping in the wind punctuated the prayers. It was hypnotic, and I felt utterly contented.

A Parssinen has lived in Saudi Arabia for almost all of the last half century. In many ways, when I arrived back in the Gulf, I came face to face with the object of 15 years’ worth of obsession. I have been so pleased to discover that my reason for starting a novel set in the kingdom—my passion to understand the place—is utterly and entirely earned: as a country, Saudi Arabia will never be boring. It houses inestimable wealth, a broad spectrum of religio-political views and a population straining to define itself in the era of globalization, as well as a massive expatriate workforce.

I no longer tell people that I’m from Saudi Arabia. I understand now that I have no ethnic or cultural claims on the country. But it will always occupy a place of great importance in my imagination and in my family history.

Keija Parssinen graduated from Princeton University in 2003. She is now a fellow at the Writer’s Workshop at the University of Iowa.



← The Parssinens’ hosts, Abu Mohammed (left) and his cousin Bandar, take a coffee break in Nariya.

VIEWING &

OILMEN FEATURED IN PRIZEWINNING FILM

Two retired Aramco geologists share the stage with dinosaurs in a prizewinning film by the Australian Broadcasting Company that takes a frank look at oil—past, present and future. *Crude—the incredible journey of oil* features interviews with Nestor Sander, who arrived in Saudi Arabia late in 1938, the year oil was discovered at Dammam No. 7, and Sadad Husseini, who retired as senior vice president of Exploration & Producing in 2004.

Filmmaker Robert Smith blends archival and modern footage (including animation) in a fast-paced story about the stuff that makes the world tick. The documentary, which includes images from Sander and Saudi Aramco, won Best Earth Sciences and Special Jury honors at the 2007 Jackson Hole Wildlife Festival and a prize from American Geophysical Union in 2008. Saudi Aramco's Public Relations Department received "special thanks" in the credits for the film, which may be viewed at www.abc.net.au/science/crude.

The film brought stardom to Sander. "No matter where the program has been shown, Nestor has always been a big hit with the audience," says Smith, himself a biologist.

Sander and Husseini are among half a dozen international oil-industry experts who appear in the film. "I love oil," Husseini says. "I think it's one of the most important elements in modern society, in civilization...."

The film follows carbon atoms—"forged in the nuclear furnaces of long-dead stars," notes Smith—as they are bound into an immense flowering of tiny organisms when the Earth underwent a hot, "greenhouse" period around 160 million years ago. At that time the Tethys Sea covered half the globe, and much of what's now the Middle East was "a sort of gigantic Bahamas," says Dr. Hugh Jenkyns, an Oxford University geologist.



Indeed, the film opens with a flying lizard sailing over the Arabian coast in that era, and goes on to show how a carbon atom moves from living matter into produceable oil over millions of years.

"It was the sea, not the sand, that dominated the Arabian Peninsula at the time of the dinosaurs," narrates Smith, noting that "the long-lost blooms of tiny photosynthetic plants and bacteria ... have reached through time to

← Left, geologist Nestor Sander, 93, takes a break from interviewing at his home in Modesto, Calif. Below, Sander, who arrived in Saudi Arabia in 1938, stands second from left on al-Khobar pier with Tom Barger, left, Fred Waldron and Dick Bramkamp.



control our modern lives," in the form of things like "diesel, jet fuel and plastic shopping bags."

Along with the conditions for laying down layers of organic matter on the seafloor, the proto-Gulf area met other criteria for building and retaining huge oil deposits,

says Jeremy Leggett, a former exploration geologist at London's Royal School of Mines. He lists them as "really rich source rocks from which the carbon can be cooked at the right temperatures and pressures underground; really excellent reservoir rocks where oil can migrate through microscopic pores and be trapped in these reservoirs; really good cap rocks—the impervious rocks over the reservoir rock that lock the oil in place; and, finally, really gentle ... folding structures, or anticlines ... in which the oil could sit."

The film travels to Edwin Drake's well at Titusville, Pa., which in 1859 proved that drilling for oil could be profitable. It shows massive oil production by the Soviet Union in what today is Azerbaijan, and production in the Gulf of Mexico. But the focus is on the Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia.

The film uses dramatic aerial photography of the Shaybah field (discovered in 1967 and put into production in 1998) in the Rub' al-Khali to highlight the harsh terrain where much of the globe's oil treasure lay hidden.

X READING

“I started out ... as a junior paleontologist whose job was to locate the traps where oil might accumulate,” says Sander, now 93, from his home in Modesto, Calif. His first strike was the Abqaiq field. “Finding a new well that produced 7,000 or 10,000 barrels a day every two or three months was a heady, heady feeling,” he says, adding: “If I got a penny for every barrel of oil that’s been produced, I wouldn’t be sitting here in Modesto.”



↑ A pterosaur soars over the proto-Arabian Gulf, super-rich in tiny photosynthetic plants and bacteria, some 160 million years ago in an early scene from *Crude—the incredible journey of oil*.

Sander was also in on the biggest find of all: Ghawar. Hussein calls Ghawar “one of a kind.... The North Sea [fields], for example, would be 1/10th of Ghawar by itself.”

Increasing demand for oil is reflected in higher energy prices—prices that Sander predicts will continue to climb as the search for oil becomes ever more challenging. Hussein agrees. “There’s no question that the oil in the future is harder to extract than the oil that we have produced up till now,” he says. “We’ve produced the best oil from the easiest reservoirs in the most convenient places.”

The last section of the film focuses on the effects of rising oil consumption and demand. It warns that along with higher prices at the pump, the carbon atom—released in the form of carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels including coal—is affecting the earth. Smith asks if man is creating a new, carbon dioxide-rich world that might herald another era of oil-creation. “As a gas, carbon dioxide helps set the global thermostat in the comfortable range,” he says. “Too little carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the entire planet will freeze; too much, and it will cook all over.”

Mankind’s future is inextricably linked to oil, the film concludes: “Oil is a precious thing ... we’ve all become part of oil’s extraordinary story.”

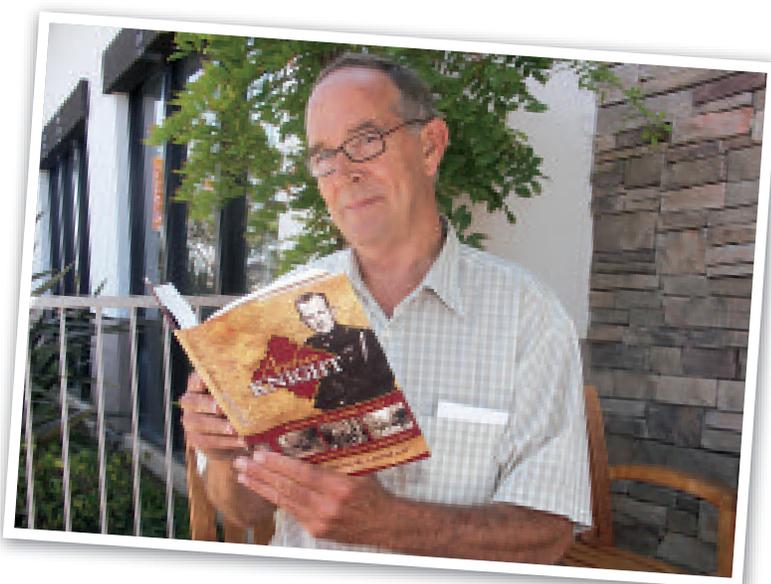
ARABIAN KNIGHT TELLS EXCEPTIONAL ARAMCON’S STORY

What U.S. soldier shared traits with T.E. Lawrence of Arabia, helped lay the foundations for American policy in the Middle East and worked for Aramco, too? The answer is in *Arabian Knight: Colonel Bill Eddy USMC and the Rise of American Power in the Middle East*, published in August by Tim Barger’s Selwa Press. Barger is the son of Tom Barger, former Aramco president and CEO.

The book, by Thomas Lippman, tells the story of a Marine who fought bravely in World War I, served in the OSS (the forerunner of the CIA) in North Africa in World War II, became a diplomat, and then joined Aramco and the Trans-Arabian Pipe Line Company as a consultant in 1947. William Eddy died in Lebanon, the country where he was born to American missionary parents, in 1962.

Barger’s ties with Eddy and his wife Mary, through their friendship with his family in Dhahran, figured in his decision to publish the book. But he said he would have done it regardless.

“Eddy had such a fascinating life,” Barger said. “He really was the single American who orchestrated the Saudi-U.S. diplomatic relationship and set in motion our nation’s involvement first in Saudi Arabia and then the entire Middle East.”



↑ *Arabian Knight* publisher Tim Barger relaxes with his latest book at his home in Vista, Calif.

TOP: PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT SMITH; BOTTOM: PHOTO BY LYN BERRY

Lippman, the author of several well-received books about the kingdom, mined rare archival material to help fill out the picture of Eddy—a man one State Department official described as “probably the nearest thing the United States has had to Lawrence of Arabia,” but whose low public profile meant he belied easy portrayal. Eddy’s role as interlocutor between the United States and Saudi Arabia is perhaps best reflected in photos of the meeting of King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz and President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the Suez Canal in February 1945, near the end of World War II. Eddy served as the sole Arabic-English interpreter between the two leaders in more than four hours of talks on subjects including the Palestine question and Saudi support for the Allies. As a diplomat, Eddy argued strongly against U.S. support for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine, but lost out after Harry S. Truman became president.

Eddy’s fluent Arabic and his close contacts with government leaders in the region made him an ideal consultant for Aramco. He worked in company offices in Beirut and Washington, and paid frequent visits to Dhahran.

“Bill Eddy started working for Aramco as a consultant on government affairs in late 1947,” Barger said. “At that time, my dad was in Government Relations ... and Eddy became my father’s mentor and lifelong friend.”

The Eddys “became part of the family,” Barger noted. “We called them Uncle Bill and Aunt Mary.”

Eddy dazzled the Barger children with his magic tricks. “When I was a kid he would get down on the floor and pull a silver riyal out of the carpet,” Barger said. “I would always beg him to keep pulling out those riyals until the room was piled with a fortune in silver coins.”

In one of two chapters devoted to Saudi Arabia, Lippman discusses Eddy’s famous essay “King Ibn Saud: Our Faith and Your Iron,” published posthumously in 1963. Eddy wrote that the king used the term “iron” to stand for Western technology and technical know-how, saying: “We Muslims have the one true faith, but Allah gave you the iron.... We will use your iron, but leave our faith alone.”

The historic meeting between King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz and President Roosevelt in 1945 not only placed Eddy between two strong leaders with very different backgrounds, but it was also the catalyst that brought *Arabian Knight* to life. Barger received permission to reprint *FDR Meets Ibn Saud*, Eddy’s account of the talks, for the 60th anniversary of the event in 2005. Lippman, who had written several stories about the meeting, “called me up and pitched the outline of the proposed biography,” Barger said. The result of their collaboration is a tale well worth reading.

THE ORIGINAL OIL HUNTERS

By Owen Oxley

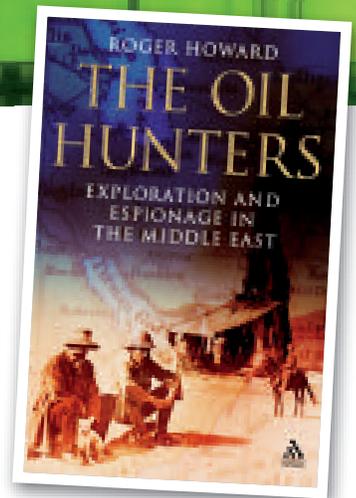
Roger Howard’s slim but intriguing volume, *The Oil Hunters*, about the very early days of petroleum exploration at various points in the Middle East, will convince readers that the search for oil by the pioneers was laborious, time consuming and, quite often, scary. That few of these men came to a grisly end, by the sword, the rifle bullet out of nowhere or for lack of water in the desert, is remarkable.

It might be explained that in the early 1920s a surprising number of the region’s rulers, tribal chiefs and others began to realize that they had something of immense value beneath their lands—and that they needed help to bring it to the surface and to market. Thus the lives of these adventurers were perhaps protected and their efforts encouraged, if they met the objectives of this ruler or that one. And then there was the British Government, whose Political Agents, ever alert, counseled and restrained a number of their “clients,” often succeeding but sometimes not.

Howard, a British author and broadcaster (his preceding book was *Iran Oil: The New Middle East Challenge to America*), admits that these men made up a “mixed bag,” including businessmen, an intrepid ex-army officer, a “will-of-the-wisp” geologist, politicians of all stripes and nationalities, and a naturalized American who ran an oil-equipment company out of New York, N.Y. Representatives of the “major oil companies of the day” also began to show up, anxious but often indecisive.

Howard simplifies the complexity of the era by devoting a chapter (sometimes more) to key individuals. Included are Jacques de Morgan, a Frenchman destined for Persia; William Knox D’Arcy, a Briton who immigrated to Australia; H. St. John B. Philby, confidant to Ibn Saud, ruler-to-be of Saudi Arabia; and American Fred A. Davies, the Standard Oil of California geologist who stood on a high point in Bahrain and observed an anticline on the Arabian mainland that he thought might hold the key to untold wealth. In time he was proved right.

It’s a grand story, replete with spies, deals and intrigue. No wonder the title of Howard’s book carries the kicker, *Exploration and Espionage in the Middle East*.



Brats & Really Old Timers Gather

Brats Hold Las Vegas Mini-Reunion

More than 80 Brats and guests met for their first-ever mini-reunion in Las Vegas, Nev., April 24–27. Cheryl Congleton Green (DH '65) and Niles Franco (DH '68) organized the event.

Ron Stroud (AB '52) was the oldest attendee; Scott Branch (DH '84) was the youngest.

“There were many wonderful moments during this reunion, which included meeting many new Brats and enjoying the interaction among different age groups,” said Green, who lives in Fullerton, Calif. Along with dancing

under a red disco ball, “many people enjoyed meals together in small groups that formed spontaneously.”

Green decided to hold the mini-reunion after missing the biennial Aramco Brats Inc. (ABI) reunions in Houston, Texas, in 2005 and in Asheville, N.C., in 2007. “I wanted to see Brat friends without waiting until 2009,” she said. “As far as I know there has never been any kind of Brat reunion in Las Vegas, so this was a first.”

But it may not be the last “off-year” Brat reunion. “Because of the success of this mini-reunion and the fabulous experience it became, I plan to make this a biannual event, in between the ABI reunions,” Green said.



Really Old Timers Meet Again

Aramco’s “Really Old Timers” gathered for their annual reunion in San Francisco on April 20. They met once again at the El Patio Español restaurant.

“We were as usual: Dawn and Cliff Flittie (from San Francisco), Dora and Mike Wanty (Modesto, Calif.), Norah Harriss (Eugene, Ore.) and Walt Dell’Oro (Santa Rosa, Calif.). Jean Dell’Oro didn’t make it again this year,” attendee Nestor “Sandy” Sander reported

Each of the old timers arrived in Saudi Arabia before 1950. Sander, who lives in Modesto, landed in 1938. The old timers spent the afternoon at the Flittie’s home in St. Francis Woods “talking over old times and, as usual, had trouble making up our minds to leave,” Sander said.

→ Pictured at left, front to back, are: “Sandy” Sander, Walt Dell’Oro and Doris and Mike Wanty. Right: Norah Harriss and Cliff and Dawn Flittie.

↑ Brat mini-reunion attendees take time out for a photo, with organizer Cheryl Congleton Green seated front row, fourth from right. Top, a signature plate from the gathering.



TOP: PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRANCH

In Memoriam

Jaber S. Jum'ah Al-Dossary

September 30, 2008

An accomplished poet, historian and astronomical and meteorological expert, Jaber Jum'ah joined the company in 1958. He worked in the Public Relations Department's Publications Division from 1978–89, reaching the position of general supervisor of publications. He retired in 1992 as a member of the Government Affairs Policy and Planning Staff. Jum'ah's brother, Saudi Aramco President and CEO Abdallah S. Jum'ah, said in a message that he "was active in imparting his weather, astronomical, historic, and literary contributions to the public and to me and the rest of his family at his bed side up to the last days of his life."

A story in the "Dial" column of *The Arabian Sun* on Oct. 19, 1988, offered some insights into Jum'ah's skills as an astronomer and weatherman.

"Arab News readers may have recognized the Saudi astronomer featured in an Oct. 8 article as *The Arabian Sun's* own resident weather watcher, Jaber S. Jum'ah. Jum'ah's interest in astronomy began in his childhood [in al-Khobar] with a developing fascination for the moon, stars and their positions. His interest grew into a full-fledged hobby as he became older and ... read extensively on the subject.

"According to Jum'ah, astronomy, unlike astrology, is a predictable and logical natural science that relies on intricate observations, mathematical calculations and physics. He notes that great astronomical works were passed to Western Civilization by Arab astronomers during the Golden Age of Islam.

"Lately, Jum'ah has been particularly interested in the sky because of the close proximity of Mars. On Sept. 22, it was 58.8 million km. closer to Earth than it has been in the last 17 years. The next time they will be anywhere near that close will be Aug. 27, 2003. 'The nearness of the two planets has affected the rise and ebb of water in the Gulf,' Jum'ah said."



Edena Anderson

August 8, 2008

Survived by her husband, retiree Sidney Anderson. Correspondence may be sent to Sidney at 4351 S. Ash St., Casper, WY 82601.

Alfred Bertocci

April 15, 2008

Survived by his wife Betty Jean Hall and his stepchildren Richard Clinton and Ron and Cindy Hall. He worked Standard Oil from 1950–54, when he transferred to Aramco. He retired as supervising craftsman instrument repairman in 1970. Correspondence may be sent to Betty Jean at 2080 E. Riviera Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.

Henry W. Bracht

August 12, 2008

Survived by his wife Betty, his son Michael and his daughters Mary Hartigan and Diane Patton. He joined Aramco in 1951, retiring as Auxiliary Services Operations manager in 1971. Correspondence may be sent to Michael at 5105 N. Marlin Canyon Place, Tucson, AZ 85750.

William R. Brennan

June 14, 2008

Survived by his wife Margaret and his daughter Brenda Wojciechowski. He joined Aramco in 1950, retiring as accounting staff analyst II in 1972. Correspondence may be sent to Margaret at 210 South St., West Bridgewater, MA 02379.

Della Brooks

May 30, 2008

Ms. Brooks joined Aramco in 1952. She retired as senior controlman, Executive Office Services, in 1972.

Anthony Brosterhaus

June 30, 2008

Survived by his wife Beverly. He joined Aramco in 1959 and retired as senior counsel in 1985.

Margaret Brown

May 25, 2008

Predeceased by her husband, retiree Howard Brown. Survived by her daughter Merideth Lundell. Correspondence may be sent to

Merideth at 12040 S.W. King George Dr., King City, OR 97224.

Patrick Caine

August 10, 2008

Survived by his daughter Patricia Willingham. He joined Aramco in 1979, retiring as maintenance planner I in 1987. Correspondence may be sent to Patricia at 201 Sarah Creek Court, Martinez, GA 30907.

Claire Chandler

June 18, 2008

Survived by her husband, retiree William "Bill" Chandler, and her children Barbara Harris, Gail Hawkins and Blaine Chandler. Correspondence may be sent to Bill at 767 E. Park Center Blvd #243, Boise, ID 83706.

Satya Chatterjee

February 26, 2008

Survived by his wife Puspa and his children. He joined Aramco in 1980, retiring as an engineer in 1995. Correspondence may be sent to Puspa at 8802 Hydethorpe Dr., Houston, TX 77083.

Bruce Crawford

August 3, 2008

Survived by his wife Margaret. He joined Aramco Services Company in 1977, retiring as a terminal coordinator in 1988. Correspondence may be sent to Margaret at 660 Harris Point Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

Margaret Cunha

September 1, 2008

Survived by her husband, retiree Paul Cunha, and her children Naveen, Nicola and Nitin. Correspondence may be sent to Paul at 904-6659 Southoaks Circle, Burnaby, B.C., V5E 4M9, Canada.

Gilbert Drowley

August 7, 2008

Survived by his brother Dempster Drowley. He joined Aramco in 1952, retiring as vice president, Mechanical Services, in 1978.

Charles Eastham

April 13, 2008

Survived by his daughter Kellie and his sons Charles T. and David. He worked for the company from 1967–74 and from 1990–93, retiring

as petroleum engineer I. Correspondence may be sent to Kellie at 105 East 8th St., Edmond, OK 73034.

Edward Elberg

June 19, 2008

Survived by his son Stan and his sister Verna Reed. He joined Aramco in 1948, retiring as a geodetic photogrammetrist in 1963. Correspondence may be sent to Stan at P.O. Box 229, Montrose, AL 36559.

Silvia Enfield

March 18, 2008

Survived by her husband, retiree Peter Enfield, and her children Catherine and Paul. Correspondence may be sent to Peter at 3301 Comonly Dr. S., Salem, OR 97306.

Monica Essenpreis

January 27, 2008

Survived by her niece Monica Porter and her nephew James Broom. She joined Aramco in 1952, retiring as Executive Services supervisor in 1977. Correspondence may be sent to Monica at 17 High Trail, St. Peters, MO 63376.

Paul Fuller

August 25, 2008

Survived by his wife Freida, his son Daniel, and daughters Paulette Windrum and Devra Fuller. He worked for Standard Oil in California and transferred to Aramco in 1957, retiring as refinery coordinator in 1968. Correspondence may be sent to Freida at 211 176th Terrace Drive East, Redington Shores, FL 33708.

Daniel T. Gallagher

May 12, 2008

Survived by his wife Jean and his daughter Tracey Henley. He joined Aramco in 1950, retiring as staff advisor, Community Services, in 1976. Correspondence may be sent to Tracey at 310 Inwood Ave., Silver Springs, MD 20902.

Dorothy Gehring

April 17, 2008

Predeceased by her husband, retiree Francis Gehring. Survived by her son Jay. Correspondence may be sent to Jay at 918 Cedar Brooke Ln., Backville, CA 95687.

Richard "Dick" Gibson

July 16, 2008

Survived by his sons Roger and John and his daughter Chris. He joined Aramco in 1978, retiring as accounting staff analyst in 1993. Correspondence may be sent to John at 15891 Dorth Circle, Ft. Meyers, FL 33908.

Bennie L. Gouger

July 26, 2007

Survived by his wife Elaine, his son Barry and his daughter Wanda. He joined Aramco in 1948 and retired as supervisor of Food Services in 1972. Correspondence may be sent to Elaine at P.O. Box 56, Ketchum, OK 74349.

Wilma Granger

March 28, 2008

Predeceased by her husband, retiree William Granger. Survived by her granddaughter Chealsea Granger.

Jean Homewood

April 23, 2008

Predeceased by her husband, retiree Charles Homewood. Survived by her daughter Kate Muris and her son Don Homewood.

Peter Ikert

September 20, 2007

Survived by his wife Connie, his daughter Amanda and his son Geoff. He joined Aramco in 1973, retiring as a project manager in 1985. Correspondence may be sent to Connie at 2131 Vallejo St., Unit 4, San Francisco, CA 94123.

George S. Johansen

August 7, 2008

Survived by his wife Lorraine and six children. He joined Aramco in 1946, retiring as senior materials planner in 1975. Correspondence may be sent to Lorraine at 500 W. Hendrickson #580, Sequim, WA 98382.

Milagras Jones

September 12, 2008

Survived by her husband, retiree Buford Jones. Correspondence may be sent to Buford at 7 Delavega Circle, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909.

Francisca (Clark) Karels

March 14, 2008

Survived by her former husband Paul Clark and her children Annemarie, Paul and Nicole. Correspondence may be sent to Nicole Clark at 337 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville, NY 10570.

Elwood "Woody" Keller

June 13, 2008

Survived by his wife Gloria, his son Mike and his daughter Andrea Borowicz. He joined Aramco in 1947, retiring as Drilling Equipment Services foreman in 1968. Correspondence may be sent to Gloria at 745 Nebraska Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95405.

James Kenny

September 22, 2008

Survived by his sisters Sharon Vreeland and Gene Rodgers. He joined the company in 1981 and retired as an engineer in 2000.

Doris Kent

March 4, 2008

Survived by her husband, retiree George Kent. Correspondence may be sent to George at 1045 Fernlea Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33417.

Donald Lem

August 4, 2008

Survived by his wife Bonnie, his daughter Kristi Lem Albrecht, and his son Donald James Lem Jr. He joined Aramco in 1978, retiring as an engineering inspector in 1997. Correspondence may be sent to Bonnie at 3214 Crimson Coast Dr., League City, TX 77573.

Edward J. Masso

September 8, 2007

Survived by his wife Sally. He joined Aramco in 1947, retiring as an accountant in 1977. Correspondence may be sent to Sally at 5941 Mia Hermosa, El Paso, TX 79912.

Lamar May

May 14, 2008

Survived by his wife Christine and his sons Scott and Kim. He joined Saudi Aramco in 1990 and retired in 1998. Correspondence may be sent to Christine at 822 E. 19th Ave., New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169.

In Memoriam

Andree McCue

August 5, 2008

Survived by her husband, retiree John McCue. Correspondence may be sent to John at 12257 Avenida Consentido, San Diego, CA 92128.

Joe E. Pate

June 11, 2008

Survived by his wife Catherine. He joined Aramco in 1975, retiring in 1985 as senior project manager, Gas Projects. Correspondence may be sent to Catherine at 818 Buoy Rd., Houston, TX 77062.

William Piekma

August 21, 2008

Survived by his wife Mary. He joined Aramco in 1953, retiring in 1981 as R.T. Community Maintenance Division superintendent. Correspondence may be sent to Mary at P.O. Box 1706, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315.

Warren "Rick" Pope

March 27, 2008

Survived by his parents; his wife Cheryl Heldt-Pope; his sons Matthew and Nicholas; his brother Stanley; and his sister Elaine Barnum. He joined Aramco in 1986, retiring as a public relations specialist in 2004. Correspondence may be sent to Cheryl at 769 Cathedral Pointe Ln., Santa Barbara, CA 93111.

Martin Power

July 9, 2008

Survived by his wife Linda, sons Roger and Glen, and daughters Karen, Luella and Julie. He worked for the company from 1958-73 and 1981-90, retiring as senior electrical technician. Correspondence may be sent to Linda at 7220 Bluestone Dr., Reno, NV 89511.

Doris Pratt

July 11, 2008

Predeceased by her husband, retiree George Pratt. Survived by her son Joseph, to whom correspondence may be sent at 36 Colindale St., Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3P 2A4.

Stephen Ransom

April 6, 2008

Survived by his wife Sherry and his children Kristi Munoz and Eric Ransom. He worked

for the company from 1980-91 and from 1991-97. Correspondence may be sent to Sherry at 1854 Beaver Trail #16, Caldwell, TX 77836.

Andrew J. Rebeck

February 24, 2008

Survived by his wife, retiree Mary (Paine) Rebeck. Correspondence may be sent Mary at 9852 3200 Rd., Hotchkiss, CO 81419.

Ester Rose-Barnes

June 21, 2008

She joined Aramco in 1979, retiring as chief area nurse in 1988.

Raymond Sherwyn

August 6, 2008

Survived by his son Christopher. He joined Saudi Aramco in 1989, retiring as facilities planning specialist in 2007. Correspondence may be sent to Christopher at 232 Field St. #1627, Dallas, TX 75201.

David Sizemore

July 31, 2008

Survived by his wife Linda and his daughter Courtney. He joined Aramco in 1985, retiring as a business systems analyst in 2000. Correspondence may be sent to Linda at 9 Hall Circle, Lexington, VA 24450.

Henry S. Smith

May 8, 2008

Survived by his wife Marianne "Anne." He joined the company in 1944 and retired in 1969. Correspondence may be sent to Anne at P.O. Box 2058, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Richard Smith

April 30, 2008

Survived by his wife Rosemary, his son Lex and his daughter Toni. He joined Aramco in 1952 and was employed as a drilling supervisor for 25 years.

Barbara St. John

May 16, 2007

She joined the company in 1942, retiring as secretary, Government Relations, in 1962.

Thelma Stecher

April 29, 2008

Survived by her husband, retiree Edward Stecher, and her sons Charles and Jim Ecklund. Correspondence may be sent to Edward at 102 Crabapple Way, Greenwood, SC 29649.

Therese Stevens

July 31, 2008

Survived by her husband Ronald. She joined Aramco Services Company in 1982, retiring as traffic clerk II in 2000. Correspondence may be sent to Ronald at 23610 White Oak Forest Dr., Porter, TX, 77365.

Betty Jo Tedder

August 27, 2008

Survived by her husband, retiree Murry Tedder. Correspondence may be sent to Murry at 306 W. College Ave., Hartsville, SC 29550.

William G. Vanderhoff

March 3, 2008

Survived by his wife Elaine. He joined Aramco in 1953, retiring from communications in Ras Tanura in 1964. Correspondence may be sent to Elaine at 1306 Mona Passage Ct., New Bern, NC 28560

Harvey J. Wilson

April 20, 2008

Survived by his wife Willa "Dean," his son Joe and his daughters Diana Fenlon and Penny Newton. He joined Aramco in 1972, retiring as onshore drilling liaisonman in 1987. Correspondence may be sent to Willa Dean at 2301 Fox Ave., Moore, OK 73160.

Nancy Zotos

August 28, 2008

Survived by her husband, retiree Peter Zotos. Correspondence may be sent to Peter at 10660 Northridge Dr., Conroe, TX 77303.

John Sabini

Bridge Between the West and Islam

By William Tracy

Writer-historian John Sabini, who died in June at age 87, crafted a career that covered much of the Middle East, including postings at the Trans-Arabian Pipe Line Company (Tapline) and Aramco, major contributions to company publications, and several books. His most popular book, *Islam: A Primer*, was recommended by Waterstones, a leading British bookseller, for readers wishing to learn about the faith in the post-9/11 world.

Sabini lived in Saudi Arabia and other areas of the Arab World for some 30 years. A broad circle of friends in the Middle East, Europe and America will remember him for his gregarious personality, his keen mind and his wry, often ironic wit. Countless others know him as a contributor to *Aramco World* magazine and the author of three Middle Eastern-themed books.

Sabini served as a U.S. Foreign Service officer in Tunis and Jerusalem. He joined Tapline in 1958, transferred to Aramco's Government Affairs Department in Dhahran in 1968, and worked with *Aramco World* Editor Paul Hoyer and myself in Beirut and in The Hague, Netherlands.

Ismail Nawwab, one of Sabini's colleagues at Aramco, remembers him as "a man interested in intercultural understanding between the West and Muslims, and in this, generally far ahead of today's trends." Sabini was a principal researcher and writer for the 1980 edition of *Aramco and Its World, Arabia and the Middle East*, edited by Nawwab, Hoyer and Peter Speers.

He wrote his first book, *About Tunisia* (Geoffrey Bles, London, 1961), under the pen name John Anthony. It was published in the United States as *Tunisia, A Personal View of a Timeless Land* (Scribner, 1962). His book *Armies in the Sand. The Struggle for Mecca and Medina* (Thames and Hudson, 1981) dealt with the early 19th-century Saudi campaign to secure the Holy Cities from the Ottoman Egyptians.

Islam: A Primer (Middle East Editorial Associates, 1990) went into a sixth printing (Amideast, 2001). One reviewer called it "a sensitive introduction to a maligned culture, a wonderful introductory handbook for anyone unfamiliar with the beliefs, practices and/or history of the Muslim world."

Sabini wrote on mainly historical topics for *Aramco World*. His magnum opus was a complete issue about the World of Islam Festival in London in 1976, published in May-June that year. He wrote in that single issue about Islamic calligraphy, art, architecture, music, nomads and cities, science and technology.

Sabini lived in London after retiring from Aramco 1979. He is survived by his daughter Jemima Haddock, who may be contacted at Cedar Lodge; 11 Amersham Road; Chesham Bois, near Amersham; Bucks HP65PD, England.





PHOTO BY MICHAEL MARKOVIC

↑ **WHAT A SHOW!** Jabal Las Vegas 2008 attendees Lois Miller (left), Eva-Kinga Farnsworth and Audrey Judkins strike a welcoming pose outside the Hofuf Gathering Area in the Paris Hotel—a center for Annuitants Reunion activities this fall.

Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah

الأيام الجميلة

PLEASANT DAYS
FALL 2008

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