

# Al~Ayyam Al~Jamilah

الأيام الجميلة

Asheville  
CELEBRATION

10



**INSIDE**

- Doctoring in Saudi Arabia **24**
- Barnstorming for Company and King **32**
- Arabian Son's Tales Ring True **37**
- Sixtos Bloom in British Columbia **38**

**MORE REUNION NEWS**

- Europe **21**, Saudi Arabia **23**

10

## Asheville Celebration

Around 350 retirees and family members turned out in September to celebrate at a hotel with a history nestled in the tree-bedecked Blue Ridge Mountains in Asheville, N.C.

Jane Ray, left, poses on the balcony with Ted and Anne Seymour. Ted joined the company as Aramco Schools media director in 1971, and Anne and Jane taught in Dhahran.



21

## Euro Gatherings Get Great Reviews

UKAramcons and AOC'ers past and present reunited in York in North Yorkshire, England, and Voorschoten, the Netherlands, in September and May. Among the 100-plus attendees in York (top) were Ann Wingrove, right, and Margo Rochefort. In Holland, 160 guests turned out, including Patricia Cromberge, flanked by Gerry Kortekaas, right, and Robert van der Putten.



24

## Doctoring in Saudi Arabia

In 1959, Dr. Armand Gelpi joined Aramco's Medical Dept. to "deal with diseases most often seen in the tropics, but in a setting that allowed access to the most modern diagnostic and therapeutic facilities." His family joined him not long after that for what he calls "the best years of our lives."

32

## Barnstorming for the Company...and the King

Twenty-one-year-old Bob Morgan was looking for adventure when he signed on with TWA to fly for Aramco in 1946, and that's what he got. Here, the aviator looks over a model of the king's DC-3—known as SA-R-1 (Saudi Arabian Royal 1)—in the Hickory Aviation Museum, not far from his home in Granite Falls, N.C. That plane was just one of the royal and civilian aircraft that he flew during his story-filled years in the kingdom.



Cover: "Play's the Thing": Dhahran Theatre Group members stage an impromptu performance in honor of the 29th Annuitants Reunion on the steps of the reunion venue in Asheville, N.C.

### Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah

"Pleasant Days," is produced for annuitants, families and friends of Aramco, now Saudi Aramco, and its associated companies by Aramco Services Company.

FALL 2014. ISSN-1319-1512

### ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO

The Editor, Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah  
Aramco Services Company and Aramco  
Overseas Company, P.O. Box 2106  
Houston, TX 77252-2106

arthur.clark@aramcoservices.com

PRESIDENT Nabeel Amudi

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT Alma Kombargi

EDITOR Arthur Clark

DESIGN Graphic Engine Design



## 23 Excitement Rising for 2015 In-Kingdom Reunion

“The word is out” about the Third Annuitants Reunion in Saudi Arabia, set for March 9-18 next year, says Reunion Committee Chairman Ali Baluchi. “We are starting to see lots of excitement as people here think about their friends who left, returning.” For a taste of what’s being planned, read on....

OPPOSITE (TOP LEFT AND BOTTOM RIGHT): ARTHUR CLARK;  
BOTTOM LEFT: ARTHUR CLARK; BOTTOM RIGHT: CHIKA UDEZUE



## 37 *Arabian Son's* Tales Ring True

Tim Barger has a knack for telling stories. These tales, mainly of his life as a youngster growing up in Dhahran, will tickle many a memory among Aramco offspring. But he leavens the pages with some “grown-up” stories, too, which make it an all-the-more-valuable read.



## 38 Sixtos Bloom in British Columbia

Patrick and Lee Sixto put down roots in more ways than one when they moved to their new home in a suburb of Victoria, Canada, after a 13-year stay in Saudi Arabia. Patrick cultivates prizewinning vegetables, while Lee conjures up brilliant blossoms—and they both share berries with their grandson, Jayden, who’s six.



## Cyclists Mark Golden Anniversary

**April 29, 2014**

On May 12, Johanna and I are married 50 years. WOW! We will celebrate this in Ocean City, N.J., with the kids and I think the story ["King of the Road" in the Spring 2014 issue] is a beautiful handout to the kids.

The bike story has been very well received and I got lots of nice comments on it.

In my hometown of Ulvenhout, the Netherlands, there is a great "show" of old cyclists (the good oldie days), opened by 1968 Tour de France winner Mr. Jan Jansen.

**Adrianus Verhoeven**  
[adrianus.verhoeven@online.nl](mailto:adrianus.verhoeven@online.nl)



Adrianus and Johanna Verhoeven, married 50 years in May, paused for a photo on a bike ride near Ulvenhout, Holland, this spring.

## Remarkable Remark

**May 5, 2014**

I received the Spring 2014 issue of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah* and found the place where I was quoted regarding the Saudi Aramco reunion in 2009. ["The changes we saw, especially in comparison with the 1970s, were tremendous. It was wonderful back then and it is wonderful now."]

Thanks for sending it!

I really enjoyed reading about other former Saudi Aramco employees, many of whom I knew from my time in Saudi Arabia.

**Thomas Anderson**  
[tca70@att.net](mailto:tca70@att.net)



Adrianus Verhoeven is flanked on his right by 1968 Tour de France winner Jan Jansen at the opening of a cycling exhibition at the Paulus van Daesdonck Museum in Ulvenhout.

## Aramcons Filled Out '51 ACS Football Team

**May 5, 2014**

I just received my copy of the Spring issue and saw the famous ACS football picture.... It is probably the only time ACS had a football team, although we never played against anyone! There was no competition in Beirut at the time.

If it wasn't for the school's Boarding Department, there wouldn't be a team, as the BD made up the majority of "players."

Your article mentioned that myself and Jim Mandaville were two Aramco kids. However, the majority of those down-line men were from Aramco: Monroe Pastermack, Bennie Braun, Jerry Smith, Alan McFadden, Harry Bolton, Rich Howard and Jon Walker.

I also read about the interest in sending Aramco Aviation pictures. In those days, Aramco would send three planes to take the Aramco kids back to ACS each year. The first plane was all boys, the second one was all girls and the third one was for anyone who couldn't get on the first two.

The pilots called to these trips the "Monster Run," particularly the first one with all fellows. It got quite messy at times and loud! Box lunches that weren't eaten were sometimes thrown around the plane.

**Doug Brice**  
[dbrice@covad.net](mailto:dbrice@covad.net)

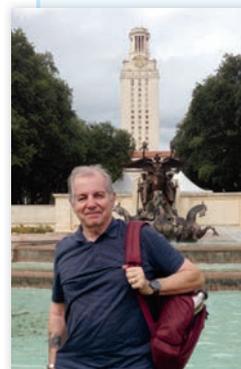
## Nice to See 'Homeboys' Do Well

**May 9, 2014**

Congratulations on another outstanding issue—every article was of interest to me, especially the one on Indiana Orr. I did not know for years that Terry Orr had settled in central Texas, and never have been in touch with him since he left Arabia, but it's nice to see one of the homeboys do as well as he has and is still doing....

The only pages I read with reluctance are the In Memoriams—so many of our era moving on.

**Mary Norton**  
[slvrgrama@gmail.com](mailto:slvrgrama@gmail.com)



Terry Orr poses with his school bag at the University of Texas, where he started classes for his third degree in 2013.

## Book Note 'Thanks'

**May 12, 2014**

My wife Aleksandra and I wish to express our sincere appreciation and thanks for the article about her book *Ingrid Bergman and Her American Relatives* in the latest issue....

Many nice things were said about Aleksandra, about Ingrid Bergman and about me. We are grateful to you that the article appeared in Aramco's very fine periodical that is always a pleasure to receive and to read.

**Norman Boehm**  
[Nodakman@aol.com](mailto:Nodakman@aol.com)

## Exploring Peru

**May 20, 2012**

I am an Aramco retiree and...seek your help in making contact with Ken and Ruth Wright who are mentioned in the brief write-up "Wrights Explore Inca Water Temple" in the Spring 2014 issue.

I too visited Ollantaytambo, Peru, two years ago and I was fascinated enough to return to it during the same stay to take pictures. What drew me back was an item that seems sort of impossible based on what the conventional wisdom and most evidence seems to say about the technology of the people who build many of the architectural structures throughout that region of the world.

In fact, I was so fascinated about what I found that I never managed to explore the water works themselves. The second visit, again with limited time, I took pictures of the temple/altar area. There is a large...stone that had one face partially finished, perfectly flat, with a knife-thin kerf into the remaining material. According to what we learn from Peruvian history, the Aimara, Ketchua or Incas did not have the tools and materials to saw stone with blades as thin as it must have been to start cutting that stone at the top of the Ollantaytambo site.

**Peter W. Guenther**  
16023 Park Center Dr.  
Houston, TX 77059-4057

## Enjoying the Magazines

**July 24, 2014**

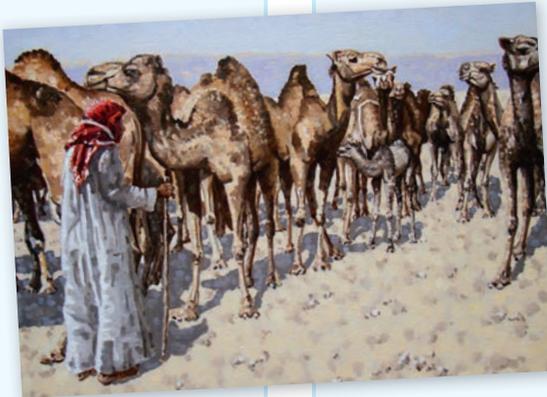
I continue to enjoy each issue of the "Pleasant Days" and *Aramco World*, and share them both with others here who have never experienced the travels and experiences that I and all the other Brats have.

Thank you for publishing these great magazines; their value is truly inestimable.

**John N. Prante**  
Box 999N36343  
Pinckneyville, IL 62274

## Dutch Knight Shares Hofuf Art

**July 16, 2014**



**Hofuf Camel Market**

appeared in the *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah* issue of Spring 2006.

I completed this panorama of 252 square meters (2,713 sq. ft.) in 2008 and was invested as a knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau by Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands.

For more details see my website: [www.vandenendepanorama.com](http://www.vandenendepanorama.com).

**Leo van den Ende**  
[leo@vandenendepanorama.com](mailto:leo@vandenendepanorama.com)

*NOTE: Leo van den Ende worked for AOC from 1972-1987, and traveled to Dhahran four or five times to develop computer programs for the Purchasing Store Stock Dept. He visited Hofuf once and stopped by the camel market shown in his painting. "Since I'm 75 years of age now, I made it out of nostalgia," he said.*

## Twins Debut in the Philippines

**August 30, 2014**

My children and I are always happy to receive a copy of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah*. It is a beautiful magazine to treasure for it contains so many different and interesting stories about the events of the past and the present. It is indeed an Aramco family magazine.



It is also a very nice feeling to think that everyone recognizes the worth and importance of their work and ability to make Aramco great! Wonderful people in a wonderful company!

I am sending a photo of my children Eugenia and Victoria, who celebrated their 18th-birthday debut in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental, the Philippines, on Aug. 29.

**Victoria Stanisauskis**  
308 Dalehurst Dr.  
Henderson, NV 89074

## Bill Rich Celebrates 90 Years

**September 22, 2014**



**Bill Rich celebrates 90 years with his daughter Lisa.**

I am forwarding this, in case the annuitants magazine would like to mention "Happy Birthday" to my father, Bill Rich. He turned 90 on Sept. 17. He retired from Aramco in the 1980s as a senior projects engineer...and he now resides in Bastrop, Texas, near me.

By the way, Mr. Terry Orr, former mayor of Bastrop, attended Dad's birthday party. We enjoyed your article on Mr. Orr...whom we see in church every week....

I forgot to mention I have a Petroleum Engineering degree, too. Growing up in Aramco definitely impacted my life, too.

**Lisa Hunter (DH'73)**  
[lisahunter@hughes.net](mailto:lisahunter@hughes.net)

**Victoria and Eugenia Stanisauskis (left and right), are the twin daughters of the late Eugene Stanisauskis and his wife Victoria.**

## SI Cover Girl ‘Incredible,’ Says AB’76 Grad

**R**ick Winward was no doubt disappointed in July when the Arabian American Little League All-Stars lost in regional play in the Philippines, missing a trip to the World Series in Williamsport, Pa. But any sadness on the part of the 1976 Abqaiq School graduate was assuaged when the Philadelphia team with which he’s associated made it to the World Series—and *Sports Illustrated* featured its phenomenal pitcher, Mo’Ne Davis, on its Aug. 25 cover.

Davis, 13, of the Taney Little League Dragons made headlines when she notched a shutout win in Williamsport—the first girl



to do so in series play. The Dragons finally fell to Chicago, which bowed to South Korea in the championship.

“It was inspiring to see Mo’Ne do so well...not just in

Mo’Ne Davis, the Little League pitcher from Philadelphia with an Aramco connection—through Rick Winward (AB’76)—hurled her way onto cover of *Sports Illustrated* in August.

terms of her on-field performance, but her on- and off-field attitude and demeanor, too,” says Winward, Taney Youth Baseball Assn. (TYBA) vice president.

“Being on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* was incredible. I expect we’ll see her on a Wheaties box, and I’ve seen multiple inquiries about film rights, too.”

Winward played Little League baseball in Dhahran, “but I wasn’t very good,” he says. His late father Bud taught music in Dhahran from 1966-1971, in Abqaiq from 1974-1976 and in Dhahran again from 1976-1984. His mother Janet lives in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Winward lives in Philadelphia, where he was born and where he owns a real-estate investment and development company.

He started coaching Taney when his sons—both now in college—began playing Pee Wee ball in the TYBA and then stuck around. He’s been a TYBA board member



Rick Winward, Taney Youth Baseball Assn. vice president, is surrounded by players during a game in Philadelphia.

since 2002 and became the vice president and a member of the Little League executive committee in 2009.

Winward says the city-center club’s World Series play has generated support to build the first field complex for the team—which, till now, has not had a home field.

Despite all the focus on the Taney Dragons, Winward is still rooting for the Arabian American Little League team.

“My boys and I watched the Aramco team play at the World series,” but were never able to go to Williamsport “so we would always watch on TV,” he says. “My kids always knew that the team from Saudi Arabia was my team.”

## Yellowstone Veteran Wraps Up Season 4

**L**ou Spencer, who he retired as a Dhahran School teacher in 2007, completed his fourth three-month season at Yellowstone National Park in Gardiner, Mont., on June 15. Spencer, who works as a volunteer for the Yellowstone Assn., departed for home in Signal Mountain, Tenn., after welcoming a new crop of animals to the park.

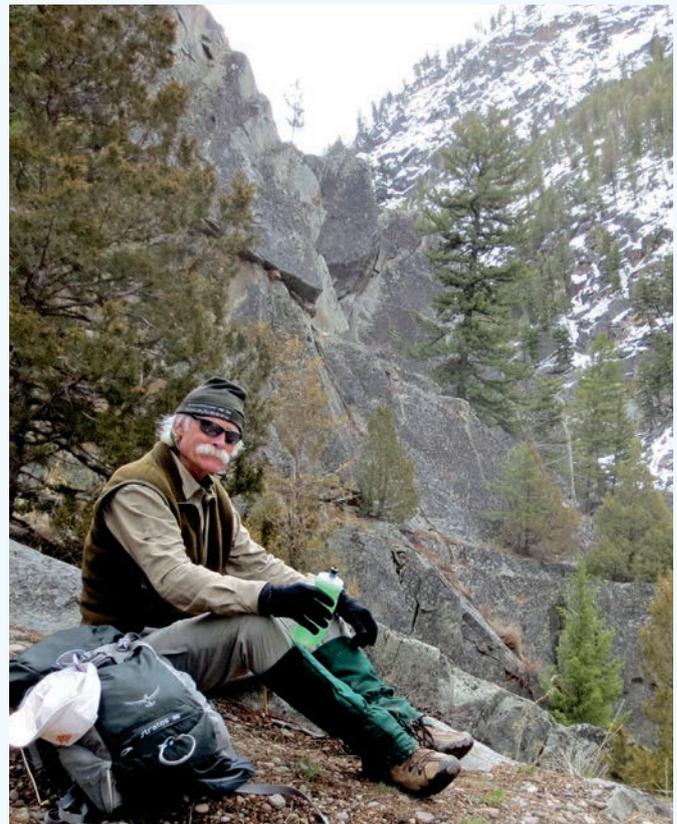
“The spring babies have arrived with the bison first and later will come the elk and pronghorn,” he wrote early in June. “The bears have emerged from their winter sleep and can be seen most days.”

“Wolves are starting to retreat into the back country where they will den and have their offspring,” he noted. Reintroduced in 1995 and 1996, there are now more than 300 wolves in the Greater Yellowstone Area and “even with legal hunting in the surrounding states, there is no danger of them becoming extinct again.”

Spencer has no plans to spend his late winters and early springs anywhere else than Yellowstone.

Spencer said that the National Park Service (NPS) was established in 1916, 44 years after Yellowstone was established as the world’s first national park. He said he’s looking forward to 2016, when the NPS will celebrate its centennial in the park, “with hopes that the current president will be on hand for the ceremony.”

Lou Spencer takes a break beside by a Yellowstone stream midway through his fourth season at the oldest U.S. National Park.



## Renfro Takes Lecture to Canada

Former Aramco employee and Chevron executive Hugh Renfro took his lecture program about kingdom to a new venue—Canada— this spring while continuing to speak in the United States.

"I generate program opportunities by contacting organizations and familiarizing them with my programs," said Renfro, who worked for Aramco from 1952 to 1967 and headed the Arabian Chevron Oil Company in Saudi Arabia in 1975. He was an executive producer of the 2010 IMAX film *Arabia*, shot in Saudi Arabia.

Since 2003, Renfro has delivered around 200 programs about the kingdom across the United States. His audiences range from 20 to 200.

He spoke to around 90 students, including "a surprising number of Saudis," at McGill University Medical School in Montreal in April, he said.

"Several Saudis said that they appreciated the program as it served to explain their history and culture—the explanation is sorely needed. That was very gratifying."

In May, Renfro spoke to a small group at the Naval War College in Monterey, Calif., his third visit there.

There have been few negative comments after any of his talks. "Usually, audiences respond with a constructive 'We didn't know that,'" he noted. He said he fields "lots of questions" about women in Saudi society and Saudi Arabia's reaction to recent developments in Iraq and Syria.



"The King and I"—Hugh Renfro shows a photo of himself (second from right) at a tea party he held for newly crowned King Sa'ud in Riyadh in 1954.

## Paul Nance Honored at 'Roads of Arabia' Opening in Kansas City Museum



The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (NAMA) in Kansas City, Mo., honored retiree and museum-pioneer Paul Nance for his work to introduce Saudi Arabia and the wider Middle East to U.S. audiences on April 23 at the opening of the kingdom's "Roads of Arabia" exhibition.

Shirley Bush Helzberg, chairperson of NAMA's board of trustees, named Nance a "distinguished honorary member" of the exhibition committee and said NAMA "is one among many institutions and individuals touched directly by the impact of his generosity." Mark Nance represented his father, who did not attend due to health concerns.

Nance and his late wife Colleen opened the Nance Museum of largely Saudi artifacts in his hometown of Lone Jack, Mo., in 1985, two years after he completed a 31-year career at Aramco. The Nances donated the museum's artifacts and library to the University of Central Missouri (UCM) in Warrensburg in 2002.

Prince Sultan ibn Salman, president of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, cut the ribbon for "Roads of Arabia" and later posed for a photo with Mark Nance—a former Aramco employee himself. The exhibition closed July 6 in



Mark Nance, right, represented his father Paul, who was honored at the opening of the "Roads of Arabia" exhibition in Kansas City, Mo., in April. His is pictured with Prince Sultan ibn Salman, president of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, who is flanked by Alan Marsh (left) of the Nelson-Atkins Museum board of trustees and Dr. Julian Zugazagoitia, Nelson-Atkins director and CEO.

Kansas City; it runs Oct. 24-Jan. 18 at The Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, the last stop in a five-city U.S. tour sponsored by Saudi Aramco and ExxonMobil.

"Mr. Nance established one of the finest personal collections of art from the Middle East ever displayed in the United States," Helzberg said at the "Roads of Arabia" opening. She said the collection had sparked "a lively tradition of cultural exchanges, vibrant international study programs and an overall awareness of the value of Arab-U.S. relations."

The Nance Museum displayed artifacts from the region and mounted traveling exhibitions, reaching a total of 1.5 million people over 16 years.

UCM recently won a grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance for a three-year traveling exhibition of more than 50 artifacts from the Nance Collection entitled "Traditional Arts of the Bedouin."

The exhibition is scheduled to launch in June 2016. Information about hosting it is available at [MoreArt@maaa.org](mailto:MoreArt@maaa.org) or <http://www.eusa.org/exhibit/Bedouin/description>.

Paul Nance posed for a picture with students from Jiddah at the University of Central Missouri's "Saudi Arabia Day" in 2008. UCM has celebrated the day every fall since 1999 in honor of the Nance Collection and the university's links to the kingdom.

# MOSAIC

## Allen Marks Golden Anniversary

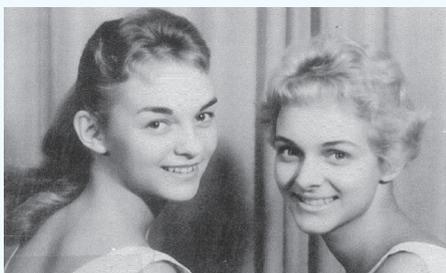
Suzanne Henry Allen celebrated the 50th anniversary of her graduation from nursing school at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill in May. The daughter of Aramcons Gerard and Kathleen Vandendorre said transitioning to student life in America was traumatic.

"When I arrived on campus from Dhahran, I was wearing homemade clothes, a short desert haircut and Arab sandals," said Allen, who lives in Savannah, Ga. "I was a desert rat."

Her father worked in Saudi Arabia from 1950-1967, first for the Saudi Government Railroad, whose construction was managed by Aramco, and then for Aramco.

"He had to keep the 18-wheeler truck freezer working so engineers, geologists and rig workers could eat and drink," Allen said. "My father had many stories to tell."

One was about driving the first self-propelled Budd car between Riyadh and Dammam on the new railroad in 1951. "Everyone onboard had to get out and shovel the sand off the tracks..." to make the trip a success, she said.



Her dad is pictured leaning from the Budd car in *Aramco and Its World, Arabia and the Middle East*, the 1981 edition of the company handbook. At Aramco, his jobs included everything from keeping exploration camps cool to installing air-conditioning in royal palaces.

Allen's mother worked part-time as a nurse in at the Dhahran Health Center. Her sons have followed in their mother's and grandmother's footsteps: Gerard is a Duke University urologist who teaches around the world and Matthew is a Baylor University neurosurgeon.

Suzanne Vandendorre, right, and her sister Carol smiled for a photo in 1959 at the American Community School in Beirut, where Suzanne was a senior and Carol was a sophomore.



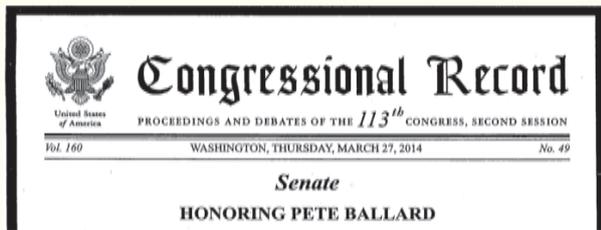
Above: Suzanne Vandendorre Henry stood in the front row, fifth from right, with her graduating class at the University of North Carolina School of Nursing in 1964. Below: She appeared front row left, in the photo of the class's 50th anniversary in May.



## Jungers Joins Investment Advisory Board

Frank Jungers, former president and CEO of Aramco, announced Aug. 6 that he has joined Common Sense Investment Management (CSIM), LLC, an independent, privately held investment manager, as an advisory board member. CSIM is based in Portland, Ore., where Jungers lives with his wife Julie.

Jungers has served as a director on the boards of public companies including The AES Corporation; Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette; Georgia-Pacific Corporation; Horizon Lines; and Thermo Electron. He is currently a director of ESCO Corporation and Pacific Star Communications. He was also chairman of the board of the Oregon Health Sciences University Foundation.



U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin III celebrated with Pete Ballard at a luncheon in his honor in Peterstown, W. Va., in August, after praising him in the *Congressional Record*.

Former Abqaiq resident Pete Ballard won a new accolade in March when U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin III hailed the artist, costume designer, fashion-doll creator and educator “as a truly remarkable West Virginian who is known throughout the Mountain State and far past our borders” in the *Congressional Record*.

Ballard, 84, who lives in Peterstown, W. Va., is well known for his still-life paintings and his fashion dolls—both now in museum collections. He’s painstakingly clothed his three- to five-foot dolls in costumes that highlight 18th- through early 20th-century couture, using design skills he honed making theater outfits for the Abqaiq Players.

Ballard joined Aramco as an English teacher at the Abqaiq Industrial Training Center in 1959 and stayed until 1967. He also taught in Vietnam, China and the United States. He retired to Peterstown in 1995.

Concord University in Athens, W. Va., praised its 1953 graduate in its Summer 2014 alumni magazine, noting that he received an Outstanding Educators in America award in 1972 and the Order of Arts and Historical Letters from West Virginia in 2006.

Ballard loved working with students. In 2008, he said his “proudest

achievement” at Aramco was teaching “the first class of 13 students who went out of the kingdom to American universities.” They maintained a “B” average in English during their first semester, which is “tough for American students and unheard of for foreigners,” he noted.

Ballard also loved humanitarian work. In the early 1960s, he looked up King Hussein of Jordan to deliver clothing that had been collected in a drive in Abqaiq for an orphanage in Jerusalem. When Jordanian Customs officials tried to collect duty for the items, Ballard took a taxi to the king’s palace and found the monarch—whom he’d met earlier while painting on the Mount of Olives—explained the situation and got things sorted out.

King Hussein “was an extraordinary man,” he said.

Manchin and his wife Gayle have known Ballard for a long time. In 2007, when he was governor of West Virginia, Manchin named him a Distinguished West Virginian.

In the *Congressional Record* citation, addressed to the President, Manchin noted that Ballard started out as a teacher, but “it wasn’t long before Pete’s

propensities steered him far beyond just a career in education, leading him to partake in many more professional ventures.... Pete’s passion for the arts and creativity knows no bounds.”

Ballard’s paintings are in institutions including The Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio, with those of John Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt, Edward Hopper and Andrew Wyeth.

“Despite his astounding success,” Manchin said, “Pete has never collected a dime for his work. After spending 12 hours a day, seven days a week on each piece of art, he...donates every painting to charity or to art galleries.”

Gayle Manchin joined townspeople at a restaurant in Peterstown on April 7 to fête Ballard for the citation. In August, Manchin himself dropped by Peterstown to have lunch with Ballard “and 40 to 50 cheering guests,” the local *Bluefield Daily Telegraph* reported.

## Wrights’ Work to Appear in American Indian Exhibition



Ken and Ruth Wright stand in front of Inkaminsana’s Sacred Rock in Peru with their grandson Mason Lacy, who helped them do research on the mountain water-supply system there.

Ken and Ruth Wright, who worked for Aramco in the 1950s, will be publishing a book and contributing to two more to complement the Smithsonian Institution’s exhibition “The Great Inka Road: Engineering and Empire” that debuts in Washington, D.C., next summer. The two-year show will open June 26, 2015, at the National Museum of the American Indian.

The Wrights have written a chapter entitled “Inka Trails

around Machu Picchu” for an eponymous exhibition book by the Smithsonian and they are writing a chapter for a book about Inka engineering that the American Society of Civil Engineers is preparing.

The Wrights’ book, about their work at Ollantaytambo in Peru’s Sacred Valley, is titled *Inkaminsana: Engineering an Inka Water Temple*.

The Wrights have been working to uncover the secrets of water-engineering systems in Inka cities in Peru since 1994 and have won numerous awards for their studies and publications.

## Amin Garner's New Image Awards

Shaikh Amin, former Aramco chief photographer, added two prizes to his collection of photo honors in March, winning silver awards at Delaware Valley Council of Camera Clubs (DVCCC) Photo Travel Circuit salons.

He won ribbons for a picture titled "Brown Sugar in the Making" that he shot near Peshawar, Pakistan. Brown sugar is traditionally made in cottage industries in Pakistan by boiling the juice of crushed sugar cane in large pans.

"I set up my camera on a tripod and took many shots with very good results," Amin said. "They offered me a sample of brown sugar and it was warm and tasty."

The DVCCC covers southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware. It is associated with the Photographic Society of America, of which Amin is a longtime member.

Amin, 87, joined Aramco in 1948 and became a Photo Unit employee in 1964. He retired in 1994, but continued to shoot for as a consultant for several years after that.



A worker tends a pan of boiling cane juice in Shaikh Amin's prizewinning photo "Brown Sugar in the Making," shot in Peshawar, Pakistan.

## Abqaiq 'Daughter' Completes MS Studies

Sumbul Q. Khan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Qamar A. Khan, earned an MS degree in engineering-technology management last December at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, where she won the 2013-2014 Outstanding Graduate Award. Her father retired from the Southern Area Community Services Dept. in 2012 after a 35-year career.

Born and raised Abqaiq, she earned a BS degree in chemical engineering at the American University of Sharjah in 2006. She is now a quality engineer at a plastics firm in Franklin, Ky.

## SAEEA Welcomes 1st Lady Member; Marks Anniversary No. 4

The Saudi Aramco Ex-Employees Assn. (SAEEA) welcomed Fakhra Begum as the group's first female member at its 10th gathering in Karachi, Pakistan, on May 18. She joined Aramco in 1976 and left in 1984 after holding clerical positions in several departments.

The reunion drew 113 guests, almost double the number that attended the group's initial gathering in October 2010.

SAEEA celebrated its fourth anniversary with a picnic at the Karachi Farm House on Aug. 10 for 145 guests.

"Attendees met with their old buddies" and enjoyed both reunions, said Iqbal Ahmed Khan, SAEEA vice president. Five new members joined in May and three more signed on in August.



SAEEA officers posed for a photo at the group's August anniversary. Standing from left are: Shafiq A. Khan, joint secretary; Iqbal Ahmed Khan, vice president; and Ghulam Qutubuddin Khan, general secretary. Seated are: Muhammad Salim Hamid, finance secretary; Kamal A. Farooqi, president; and Mohammad Abdulmatin, coordinator.

## SAFEA Holds 112th Gathering in Lahore



The Saudi Aramco Former Employees Assn. held its 112th get-together in Lahore, Pakistan, on March 23. Forty-two members gathered to meet old friends and celebrate Pakistan Day, welcoming three new members. Seated l-r are: Shaikh Amin, M. Saud Jamil, Haji Faisal Hanif, Ch. Imtiaz Ahmed, Haroon Rashid Butt, Syed Naushad Yousif Shah, Muhammad Rizwan and Haji M. Khalil. Standing are: Khalid Farooq, Muhammad Jamil, Muhammad Akhtar, Abdul Rehman, Ahmed Ali Syed, M. Akram Hayat, Munnawer Ahmed, Junaid Usmani, Sh. Muhammad Afzaal, Mahmood Ahmed, Abdul Ghafoor Khan, Rifaqat Ali Mir, Muhammad Abbas, M. Iqbal, M. Afzal Mir, Zeeshan Ahmed Tahir, Amjad Hussain Langah, M. Ashfaq (Secretary), Dr. Hammad Mansoor Ansari, Malik M. Maqbool, Akhlaque H. Khan, Malik Muhammad Saeed and M. Ibrahim Khan.

## Fadi Jaber's Cupcakes Back in the News

**F**adi Jaber, the 1992 Dhahran School graduate whose cupcakes decorated the cover of the Spring 2011 issue of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah*, is back in the news.

The man who opened cupcake shops in Jordan, the U.A.E. and Lebanon beginning in 2007 with his brother Ameen (DH'90), has brought his treats to the United States, where he lives. Late last year he opened what American University's WAMU radio called "a very sweet deal."

Jaber, the son of Palestinians Dr. Adnan Jaber and Salwa Hamdan, grew up in Dhahran.

WAMU's story about Jaber's new shop—The Cake Room, in Washington, D.C.— is at: [http://wamu.org/programs/metro\\_connection/14/09/05/entrepreneur\\_brings\\_american\\_treats\\_to\\_the\\_middle\\_east\\_and\\_back\\_again](http://wamu.org/programs/metro_connection/14/09/05/entrepreneur_brings_american_treats_to_the_middle_east_and_back_again).

Jaber no longer has franchises in the U.A.E., but his shops in Beirut and Amman are going strong.

His bakeries in the Middle East go by the name Sugar Daddy's, but he couldn't use that title in America because another shop—in Ohio—had already claimed it. He said the décor of The Cake Room is a mix of Provençal and Americana.

"I'm sort of a mish-mash of identities myself, having lived in the Middle East but with an American education, so I really wanted this to be a reflection of my life as well," he explained.



Cupcake impresario Fadi Jaber, right, poses with his brother and partner Ameen in their Sugar Daddy's shop in Amman, Jordan. Jaber opened his first U.S. shop, The Cake Room in Washington, D.C., late last year.

## Looking Back with a Smile



Norman and Lois May looked up the 1960 issue of *Aramco World* which featured him and his student Gray LaFrenz on the cover.

**N**orman and Lois May of Denton, Texas, visited Aramco Services Company in Houston in March, looking up fond memories in a 1960 issue of *Aramco World* that featured May and his Dhahran student Gray LaFrenz on the cover.

May joined Aramco as an Industrial Training Center instructor in Dhahran in July 1956 and moved to the Dhahran School in



1958—the same year Lois arrived with their four-year-old son Peter.

The *Aramco World* story was about a project in which his Dhahran School students tape-recorded answers to taped questions from their counterparts in Cascade, Ore., enlightening each other.

May said teaching in the United States was different than teaching at Aramco.

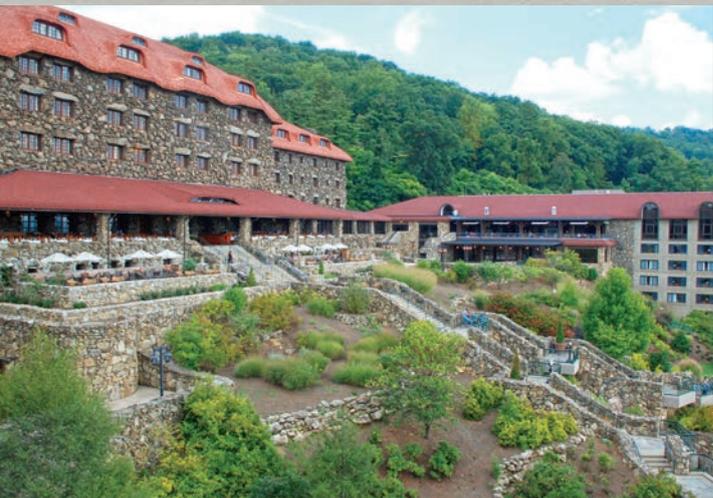
"Kids in Dhahran were already refined," he said, noting that the fact that "their parents were right in the same area and supported the school" made a big difference.

The family left Dhahran in 1961, with memories of "good friends, good times and

Norman May is seated in the second row, fifth from left, in this 1957 Dhahran Industrial Training Center staff photo. Seated in front, from left, are: G. Edward McSweeney, who became assistant director of Training in 1960; George Trial, who became supervisor of Dhahran District Training; and L. M. Grebin, the first principal at the Dhahran ITC, which opened in 1955.

good travels—as well as good students," said May, who speaks to community groups about the kingdom.

"Back in '56 I took a chance" by signing on with Aramco, May said, adding that he'd made the right decision. "We enjoyed our time in Saudi Arabia very much," he said.



## RETIRES FLOCK to MOUNTAINTOP for **29th** REUNION

BY ARTHUR CLARK

**N**early 350 retirees and family members turned out for the 29th biannual Saudi Aramco Annuitants Reunion in Asheville, N.C., Sept. 5-8, refreshing memories and rekindling friendships at the classic Omni Grove Park Inn.

Attendees traded stories of adventures old and new in guestrooms, lounges and banquet halls that have hosted chief executives, authors and performing artists since 1913 when President Woodrow Wilson sent his secretary of state, William Jennings Bryan, to speak at the hotel's inauguration.

At the reunion, things were much less formal.

A number of retirees came with their children and grandchildren to celebrate what Vera Fick, whose late husband William was a petroleum engineer, called “those wonderful years.”

She handled activities at Hamilton House, the executive guest facility in Dhahran, from 1981-1990, ensuring that visits by heads of oil companies and other dignitaries went smoothly. Echoing the sentiments of many fellow retirees, she said she would have worked there “even if [the company] hadn't paid me.”

The Asheville “Hafla” was among several functions at the resort the first weekend in September, but it got more notice than any of the others.

“What's a hafla?” a hotel guest asked a reunion attendee wearing an “Asheville ‘Hafla’ 2014” badge. When told it was Arabic for “a warm family gathering—special celebration,” she replied: “That's what I'm going to name my daughter!”

Jim and Linda Shearon hosted the reunion, with Linda taking the lead role due to Jim's illness. Jim attended one afternoon and evening. Kevin Shearon stood in for his dad, supported by his sister Lisa.

Mike and Judy Butler co-hosted the event, with the help of John and Violeta Powell, Kristin Hudson, Judy Walker, Tom Swepston and Hal Barham.

Linda Shearon thanked guests for coming to Asheville to celebrate “our very special family” at a Middle Eastern and Mediterranean buffet Sept. 5.

“We will always share fond memories of the life-changing experiences of working together and living together in Saudi Arabia,” she said in her reunion message.

A key part of that was “the personal growth and understanding we gained from our friends and hosts, the people of Saudi Arabia. We are thankful for those people who started out as strangers and who have now become close friends that you can't imagine life without....”

“The friendships we gained while living overseas, the strong ties that were formed, and the trust that was built, will always be with us. To all of you, *Shukrun Jazeelan!*”

Saudi Aramco President and CEO Khalid Al-Falih relayed similar thoughts in his published welcome message. He called the term *hafla* “the perfect theme for this much-anticipated biannual event.”

“I'm proud that your common ground began with Saudi Aramco—and that our company remains influential in your lives,” he said.



**Opposite:** Old Abqaiq friends wave from the patio of their mountaintop hotel, from left, are: (front) Gillian Asekun, Jane Archer, Nancy Gardner, Adele Tavares, Levy Worrell and Linda Shearon; (back) Sol Asekun, Richard Gardner, Keith Worrell, Vicci Turner and Bonnie Cook. **Above:** ① Glyn and Trish Jenkins, Violeta and John Powell, Leslie Powell Wickham and daughters Marisol, Cora and Amelie; ② Norma and Hal Manasa; ③ Peggy McGinley and Annie Hebert; ④ Square dancers swing to a N. Carolina Bluegrass tune; ⑤ Vera Fick greets her old boss Ali Baluchi; ⑥ Dick Ebner and ASC Public Affairs Director Ali Al-Mutairi; ⑦ Bill Chretien and Janny Slotboom.

“Aramcons first connect through the important work that we do, bring energy to the world. And our vibrant, diverse communities become the backdrop for lifelong friendships.

“But we also remain family because your contributions are enduring. The transformation now unfolding at Saudi Aramco would not be possible without the firm foundation that you helped lay for the company to grow from strength to strength. And for that we are forever grateful.”

Al-Falih lauded retirees and family members for their efforts to describe and explain Saudi Aramco and Saudi Arabia to those who haven’t experienced the kingdom first-hand. And he thanked them for returning archeological artifacts to the kingdom through the Antiquities Homecoming Project.

“There is no better goodwill ambassador than a Saudi Aramco annuitant,” he said, going on to wish everyone “a safe and delightful reunion atop Asheville’s majestic Sunset Mountain.”

A feature of the biannual reunions is the Gala Banquet sponsored by Aramco Services Company (ASC).

“The role you played in building this company is significant and appreciated and your current role in sharing your Aramco experiences with others helps reinforce a positive image of a company and country that are unfamiliar to many,” Ali Al-Mutairi, director of ASC Public Affairs, said in his banquet address.

Each family received a copy of *The Caravan Goes On*, the memoir by former CEO Frank Jungers about his life at Aramco.



**1** Guests visit Biltmore House, Asheville's most famous dwelling; **2** Scott and Audrey Stanaland, their sons Eric (left) and David, with his wife Kristl and their daughters Sarah and Leah, pose with Glenda Moore (front right), Leah's surprise Aramco first-grade teacher in Denver, N.C.; **3** Reunion hosts Jim and Linda Shearon; **4** Marge Johansson and her daughter Gen Sullivan; **5** Shirley Osborne, Nancy Taylor, Patsy Cross and Judy Walker; **6** Saif Hussaini and Hugh Renfro; **7** Biltmore House or Bust!; **8** Penny Spaid, Anne Seymour, Patsy Knox, Judy and Mike Butler and Jane and Bill Argo.



Al-Mutairi called it “a special gift...in honor of our tradition of sharing our stories.”

One story, related by 21-year Dhahran residents Scott and Audrey Stanaland, was about their family’s surprise reconnection with the kingdom through their granddaughter Leah’s first-grade teacher, Glenda Moore. Moore showed photos of herself—including one atop a camel—on the first day of school in Denver, N.C., last year.

“It took two or three weeks to put together” the guess that she might have taught in Saudi Arabia, said Leah’s dad, David Stanaland, and when Leah asked her with a tentative “*marhaba*,” she confirmed it. “I was amazed and just thrilled that I had the opportunity to teach expats in the States...Leah was an excellent student,” said Moore, who taught in Abqaiq, ‘Udhailiyah and Ras Tanura between 1989 and 2007.

ASC also provided a surprise storyteller at the banquet: Bob Morgan, a pilot for TWA who flew for Aramco in 1946-1947, before it had established its own airplane fleet. He regaled guests with stories of flying King Abdulaziz and the likes of Chief Geologist Max Steineke in those “barnstorming” days in the kingdom (see story, p. 32).

Al-Mutairi praised the strong family ties created within the company and then carried on, saying, “In Aramco, ‘family’ is a bond that crosses oceans, crosses nationalities and crosses cultures.”

That certainly proved true in Asheville, where guests hailed from 34 states, as well as Saudi Arabia, Canada, the Netherlands and Pakistan.

Al-Mutairi highlighted several major programs under way at the company, noting that Saudi Aramco is “more than halfway through a massive transformation program that will make us a global player in chemicals and research.” He also said that the company had begun exploring for unconventional gas reserves and was “reaching new frontiers in deepwater development in the Red Sea.”

In addition, he noted that the company’s newest U.S. research-and-development center would open in September in Houston—the third in the previous 18 months after centers in the Boston and Detroit areas.

Al-Mutairi celebrated his own special reunion with his “first boss” at Aramco, Loss Prevention’s Dick Ebner. Like others among the several generations of former employees there, he thanked his former mentor, saying, “This gentleman shaped my professional career, as well as adding to my personal character.”

Al-Mutairi closed by urging attendees to celebrate with friends, among them Ali Baluchi, a longtime employee who retired in 1990 as head of Community Services and is spearheading the third Annuitants Reunion in Saudi Arabia from March 9-18.

An al-Khobar native, Baluchi joined the Jabal School in Dhahran in 1947 with 10 other students, including Saif Al-Hussaini, who also attended the reunion. He praised the American contribution to the kingdom, through the work ethic inspired at Saudi Aramco.

He said his interest in reunions had been awakened through community affairs, and that he has attended every reunion but one in the United States since 1958.

“Reunions are a nice way to cement the friendship with people who physically and mentally helped us build our country...and that’s you,” he noted.

Linda Shearon highlighted the special bonds among Aramcons in her remarks, too.

“Wherever we are in the world, there’s an immediate kinship, a kind of connection that no one else can understand,” she said. “Let’s enjoy this time of celebration of our common past, rejoice in the present and look forward to our days yet to come.”



## RESULTS from GOLFING:

**Team champions:**  
Neil Horton, Doug Melton, Mark Young and Brent Kline:  
6-under-par 64,  
gross ball best

**Closest to the hole  
No. 9 (par 3):** Bob Maxwell

**Closest to the hole  
No. 17 (par 3):** Christy Maxwell

**Longest drive:**  
Sol Asekun

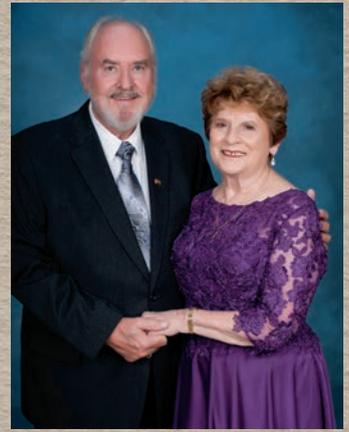
1 Bridge players, counterclockwise from back left: Jim Anthony, Byron Taylor, Ray Branch, Janet Anthony, Kay Taylor and Norma Branch; 2 Sol Asekun drives as Glyn Jenkins and Hal Barham watch; 3 Rodney Fleck holes out, backed by Mike Jurlando and Charley Wood; 4 Christy Maxwell and Adri Bormans (r-l) and flanked by their husbands, Joe Bormans (l) and Bob Maxwell.



Asheville Trolley Tourists



Ras Tanura Group



Jim & Janet Anthony



Ray & Norma Branch



Russ & June Cherry



Gary & Inge Deese



Bill & Victoria Seward



Juana Johnson & Therese Pluim



David Jesson



Alma Kombargi & Seth Sharr



Ree & Bill Chretien



Barb & Phil Salstrom



Mary & John Bratt



Bob & Bethann Brown



**Joan Short, Baxley Bennett & Carol Chamblee**



**Virginia & Jack Reed**



**Laurie Tanner Kelsch & Taylor Kelsch**



**Ilona & Gaspar Racz**



**Elaine & Kenneth Trousdell**



**Doug & Lavon Melton**



**Geraldine & Carl Gossard**



**Bob & Christy Maxwell,  
Rianne & Rick Chimblo**



**Gwen Holmes**



**Anne & Ted Seymour, Gay & David Morris,  
Christine Roberts May, Jane Ray, Barb & Phil Salstrom, Penny & George Spaid**



**Cyndi & John Spice**



**Keith & Levy Worrell**



**Jackie Feuerbach-Meyer  
& Cliff Meyer**



**Bill & Judy Walker**



**Hedy & Rob Orkney**



**Victoria Fernando & Ed Dymicki**



**Gillian & Sol Asekun**



**Rick & Connie Sutton**



**Kathy & Les Barnes**



**Mary Ellen & Paul Kersavage**



**Patricia & Hal Bonwits**



**Margie & Odell Bratland**



**Patricia Torpis, Jim & Patsy Cross**



**Chloe & Mark Young**



**Louise & Charley Wood**



**Gretchen & William Justusson**



**Joe & Adri Bormans**



**Jugnu & Sharad Kothari**



**Verna, Claude & April Allen**



**Bert Seal & Shaikh Amin**



**Wilma & Bart Haggard**



**Susan Wells, Harlan & Glenda Moore**



**Ilene & Adrian Vandebroek, Lynn & Don Elliott, Bunny & Jay Hostetter**



**Tina Winters, Amira & Ali Baluchi, Armineh Bezdekian, Patsy Knox**



**Dee McClellan & Adele Tavares**



**Hal & Marcia Barham, Annie & Trace Hebert**



**Nancy & Richard Gardner**



**Phyllis Tacquard, Herb & Betty Roos**



**Norma & Ray Branch, Coila & Keith Sims, Elva & Wade Sims**



**George & Martha Grover**



**Ree & Bill Chretien, Janny & Monique Slotboom**



Marta Ramos & Jim Milliken



Janice & Scott Madsen



(front) Trish Jenkins, Vera Flick, Peggy Folli, Suki Swepston, Edie Offield; (back) Glyn Jenkins, Art Folli, Carolyn Shelvy, Dale Offield, Priscilla & George Kramer, Tom Swepston



(front) William Justusson, George Grover, Helmut Bock, Eric Richter; (back) Nadia Bock, Gretchen Justusson, Bill & Victoria Seward, Martha Grover, Stephanie Richter



Mary & Gene Stenov



Suki & Tom Swepston



Waylon Grimm, Nancy Cool, Chris Lillesand, Lois Bauman



Delores Marshall



Jim McDonald & Jackie Hatcher



Tricia & Charlie Franck



Helmut & Nadia Bock



Kay & Byron Taylor



Rae & Gregg Mihal



Paulette & Mel Misanko



Schuyler & Phyllis Stuckey



David & Gay Morris



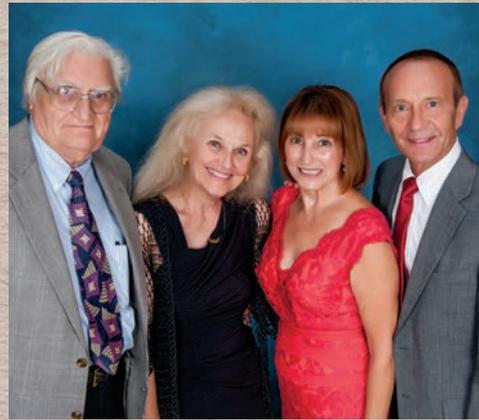
Tom & Anita Flickner



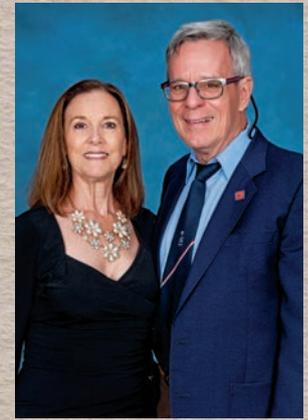
Kevin, Linda & Lisa Shearon



Dan & Marie French, Adrian & Ilene Vandebroek, Charlie & Helene Rowlette, Bobby & Brenda Scott, Loren Stefan & Barb Dell



Mary & Gene Stenov, Bunny & Jay Hostetter



Norma & Tim Ackert



Bob & Jan Morgan



Jane & Jary Archer



(front) Norma Ackert, Helene Rowlette, Judi Germani, Alina Fernandez, Judy Lucas; (back) Charlie Rowlette, Rodney Fleck, Tony Germani, Tim Ackert, Segundo Fernandez, Harvey Lucas



Charley & Louise Wood, Byron & Sarah Garretson



Allan & Emmy Zirgulis



Ted & Anne Seymour



Loren Stefan & Barb Dell



**Beta Sigma Phi Group**



**Preceptor Alpha Group**



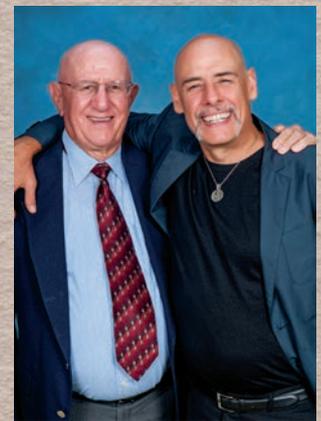
**Debbie Kidd**



**ASC Team: Alma Kombargi, Judy Sultan, Edna Catchings, Ali Al-Mutairi, Arthur Clark**



**Gretchen Justusson, Judy Walker, Martha Grover, Nadia Bock**



**Al & Jim Porto**



**Judy Walker, Linda Shearon, Judy Butler, Lisa Shearon; Kevin Shearon, Mike Butler, Bill Walker, Arthur Clark**



**Noel Cave**



**Byron & Sarah Garretson, Dan & Ellen Pouliot, Charley & Louise Wood**



**Judy & Mike Butler**



**John & Jan Arvai**



**Amira & Ali Baluchi**



**Charlie & Kristin Hudson**

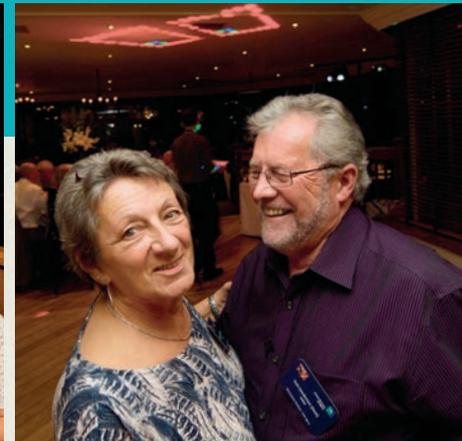
## Fifth UKaramcons Gathering

# BIDS FOND FAREWELL to HOSTS



By Matthew Starling

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR RIGHT: Tom and Eileen Henderson finish up their fifth and final UKaramcons Reunion as hosts; from left are Glyn and Lola Prichard, Kerry and Sharon Williams, David and Jenny Cameron, and Lyn and Jacquie Thomas; posing with Eileen Henderson, center, are Vicky Carter, Janet Scott, Jacqui Thomas, Donna Morris, Sandy Weller and Rita Howlett, with Richard Carter, Lyn Thomas, Allan Martin and David Howlett in back.



**M**ore than 100 former Saudi Aramco employees recently travelled to York, about half way between London and Edinburgh, for the Fifth UKaramcons reunion. The gathering, held Sept. 11-14 and supported by Aramco Overseas Company (AOC), was a last hurrah for longtime hosts Tom and Eileen Henderson.

Five reunions after starting, they bid a sad farewell to leading what's become a biannual event for retirees from Europe.

Tom spearheaded the first reunion in Nottinghamshire in 2007. He said he thought it would be a good idea to try to bring together fellow former employees, most of whom had spent the majority of their working lives in Saudi Arabia and missed the unique way of life they'd left behind.

The reunions have proven to be a great way to bring together old friends, colleagues and neighbors from the Aramco communities who share common interests. It doesn't take long before former associates are reminiscing about the "good old times."

Events during the weekend included a golf tournament, dining out at a local carvery and the focal point of the reunion, the Saturday evening dinner at the Holiday Inn York.

AOC executive Abdulrahman Mesned, who represented the company at the event, praised the retirees for their dedication, commitment and hard work.

"We remain very proud of your achievements during a period of excellent growth for the company and are sure you feel the same about your legacy," he said.

Saudi retiree Ali Baluchi shared information about the third In-Kingdom Reunion, scheduled March 9-18, 2015. "Our plan is to accommodate 600 participants," he said.

Almost everyone had positive things to say about working for the company and the reunion, and many shared their experiences and passed on advice to potential employees through video interviews.

The question asked at the end of each interview—"In one word, how would you

describe working for Saudi Aramco?"—elicited such enthusiastic responses as: "the best," "great," "rewarding" and "educational."

On Saturday night, there was a clear sense of pride on the faces of many of the attendees, some of whom spent 30 years working for the company and would probably still be there if they could. Many said they'd gone to the kingdom in the 1970s and '80s thinking they would stay a year or so, but found themselves starting families and raising their children in company communities before retiring.

Many made good friends with Saudis during their time in the kingdom and some frequently visited Bedouins in the desert.

"Embrace the country, culture and way of life and you would enjoy it," said one attendee.

As the event drew to a close, old friends continued to chat about the old days back in the communities, clearly savoring their time together.

# AOC'ERS CELEBRATE GOLDEN YEARS

## « AT » GOLDEN LION

By Kimberly Groat



Frans Boverhof, a reunion founder, takes the microphone to reminisce about his 15-year AOC career and the years he and his family spent in Dhahran, from 1980-1982.

**S**trains of 'ud music floated above the din of excited chatter as 160 retired and current Aramco Overseas Company employees gathered at the Hotel de Gouden Leeuw (Hotel Golden Lion) in Voorschoten, Holland, for their 14th reunion May 2. The wet springtime weather outside did nothing to dampen the spirits of employees past and present.

AOC'ers held biannual reunions from 1988 to 2012, when they became an annual affair with AOC involvement.

AOC Managing Director Fahad Abdulkaareem told retirees, "All of you remain an asset to the company, and in your time working with us have set a benchmark for future generations."

Gerry Kortekaas, among three persons who had previously been involved in organizing the reunions, enjoyed the opportunity to relax as a guest. As a newly minted retiree, the evening was extra-special for him.

He took the stage to recall the reunions he'd helped to organize and to applaud the retirees for attending over the years.

Patricia Cromberge, another new retiree, said that holding reunions annually offers colleagues, both retired and working, more opportunities to keep in touch. "Many retirees have had another career

after AOC," she pointed out, "but they still come together and that says a lot."

It was remarkable to see how many retirees have attended the reunions almost without fail over the last 26 years. They included 86-year-old Egbert Putten and his wife Dicky, stalwarts from the very beginning.

Current employees also enjoyed the gathering. "It's nice to see some faces I recognize of the retirees and to make acquaintance of those that have worked for the company so many years ago," said one.

For a small group of the retirees, memories of Aramco and the kingdom are what bind them.

Among them were Frans and Willy Boverhof, whose second son Franc was born in Dhahran 33 years ago.

"It's been a long time! I'm very curious as to how it's changed," Willy said. "I have friends from that period because we were like family. When I see them, I still feel that way."

Frans worked in Dhahran from 1980-1982 during his 1971-1986 AOC career and he helped engineer the first AOC reunion in 1988.

As they departed, guests received a copy of *The Caravan Goes On*, a memoir by retired Aramco President and CEO Frank Jungers, which no doubt recharged more memories.

Francine Bloemheugel-Middelma, widow of AOC retiree Hans Bloemheugel, receives a copy of *The Caravan Goes On* by Frank Jungers as an AOC gift.



Current AOC staffers Hedwig Rot and Anita Wereld-Kortekaas enjoy the celebration.



# EXCITEMENT RISING FOR 2015 IN-KINGDOM REUNION

Ali Baluchi, left, poses with former Aramco Hussain Saif at the U.S. Consulate's Independence Day celebration, where Baluchi was guest of honor.



Planning is proceeding apace for the Third Annuitants Reunion in Saudi Arabia, March 9-18, 2015. “The word is out—and we are starting to see lots of excitement as people here think about their friends who left, returning,” said KSA Reunion 2015 Chairman Ali Baluchi, who spearheaded the previous reunions in 2000 and 2009.

A record 600 participants are expected at the 2015 event.

Indeed, because of the overwhelming response for places at this reunion—more than 1,000 retirees and family members asked to attend—the 2015 reunion has been moved forward by two years in hopes that some people will defer their return until that

gathering, scheduled for March 11-21, 2019.

Baluchi spoke warmly of the close ties between American employees and retirees and their Saudi counterparts in remarks he delivered as guest of honor at U.S. Independence Day celebrations at the Consulate in Dhahran on May 8. (The celebration was moved up because July 4 fell during Ramadan.)

**OVER THE YEARS WITH THE PRESENCE OF SAUDI ARAMCO, A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP HAS DEVELOPED WITH THE AMERICAN WORKFORCE, ONE WHICH MANY SAUDIS AND AMERICANS TRULY CHERISH. ♪**



Pins like this are among the materials that have been—or are being—prepared for the KSA Reunion next March.

Ambassador Joseph Westphal. “The evidence of these strong bonds was first apparent in 2000 when a first reunion of expatriates, mostly American retirees, was held.”

Three-hundred people attended 2000 Reunion and 500 came to the 2009 Reunion.

“We are getting our troops aligned through various committees such as administration, events and activities, marketing, hospitality and local tourism,” Baluchi said in a separate message about the 2015 reunion. “We are lucky to have some of the old crew around to help out in managing and executing their experiences and knowledge they gained during the previous reunions.”

“Over the years with the presence of Saudi Aramco, a special relationship has developed with the American workforce, one which many Saudis and Americans truly cherish,” Baluchi told an audience including

Programs and Events Committee veteran Kathy Owens said her team “is working on a very ambitious schedule to identify and lock in the many resources that will be called upon in order to satisfy the large group of returning annuitants.”

“Thanks to online registration and surveys, the committee has been better able to identify the particular interests and activities that returning annuitants would like to experience and enjoy,” said Baluchi. “As you know, it is common knowledge, we cannot make everybody happy, but we can try to meet, where we can, half way.”

Reunion-goers will be able to take part in activities including bus trips to al-Khobar, Thugbah and Dammam to shop, or visit the Eastern Province Governorate or Aziziyah Beach. There will also be daytrips to al-Hasa, Abqaiq, ‘Udhailiyah, Manifah, Saihat and Tarut, and shopping caravans to Qatif, Hofuf and Nariyah.

The Saudi Aramco Employees Assn. will reprise its popular “desert dinner,” and there will be baseball, “rockin’ country music” and a Dhahran Theatre Group presentation, along with a horse show/chili cook-off, an Arabian fashion show, and sailing and a barbecue at Half Moon Bay.

Trips farther afield are being lined up to places such as Shaybah, Madain Saleh, ‘Asir, Jiddah, Riyadh (where a visit to the annual cultural festival at Janadriyah is planned) and, for divers, the Red Sea.

# Doctoring in



Nicole Gelpi and her brother Sam, ages 10 and six, play ball on an outing near the beach at Ras Tanura in 1963. They arrived with their mother Lucille and brother Peter to join their dad, Dr. Armand Gelpi, in Dhahran in 1959.

# Saudi Arabia

THE BEST YEARS  
OF OUR LIVES *Dr. Armand P. Gelpi*



**F**ifty-five years and more than 25 biomedical-journal publications ago, I began employment with Aramco. Late that same year—1959—my wife Lucille joined me with our young children, Nicole, Peter and Sam.

I had made an earlier reconnaissance visit, courtesy of the company, to decide whether to accept a job with the Medical Dept., and it was love at first flight.

Dr. J. W. “Bill” Taylor, chief of surgery at the Dhahran Health Center (DHC), met me at the Dhahran Airport. I had a brief look at the DHC, which included clinics and an 80-bed hospital, and spent the rest of the day learning about my pending job and its possibilities. I joined Aramco’s health-care team with the feeling that it was an opportunity to deal with diseases most often seen in the tropics, but in a setting that allowed access to the most modern diagnostic and therapeutic facilities.



A nurse weighs a youngster at the Dhahran Health Center, part of a free health-checkup program for the children of Saudi employees, in 1971. The author was assigned to internal medicine, a part of the Primary Care Medical Services Unit that included pediatrics, general practice and psychiatry, when he arrived in 1959.

I was assigned to internal medicine, a section of the Primary Care Medical Services Unit that included pediatrics, general practice (now referred to as family practice) and psychiatry. Two fellow internists, Drs. Bill Weidman and Larry Field, and roughly 15 other colleagues made up the rest of the unit. In a few weeks, I was promoted to chief of the Medical Services Div., the position I held for my eight years at Aramco.

My patients consisted of expatriate employees with or without families. I also saw many Saudi employees and adult family members on a consultation basis, but our family-practice physicians handled most adults requiring medical care.

I also found myself closely involved with the activities of the Preventive Medicine Div., which played an extremely important role in carrying out surveillance for communicable diseases, pest control, health education and other activities available through state and federal public-health agencies in the United States.

Dr. Richard Daggy, a microbiologist and epidemiologist, initially headed the division. He later moved up to medical director, a position he held for the remainder of my employment with Aramco.

One of the most important projects for the division was its annual malaria survey in the vast tracts of the Qatif and Hofuf

One of the most important projects for the division was its annual malaria survey in the vast tracts of the Qatif and Hofuf oases... Another key health-care initiative was the Trachoma Project.

oases. The scourge of many developing countries in the tropics, malaria was essentially confined to the oases in the Eastern Province. It is transmitted from the bite of an *Anopheles* mosquito.

The malaria surveys meant entering the townships in each oasis—village by village—and establishing temporary collecting stations for blood samples from resident volunteers. The samples were examined later in the laboratory at the DHC for malaria organisms.

The company collected vital information concerning the distribution of malaria in various villages and the intensity of infection, estimated by the percentage of people infected. Survey data allowed health-care professionals to set up mosquito-control programs.

The *Anopheles* subspecies active in the Eastern Province had a short flight capability and was thus confined to the oases, sparing the townspeople in Dammam and al-Khobar, for example, from mosquito bites and malaria. The same was true of company communities.

Nevertheless, preventive medicine remained vigilant, using pesticides to eliminate mosquitos, flies and most other insects in and around Aramco facilities. It also introduced larvae-eating minnows into irrigation canals to control mosquito propagation.

Another key health-care initiative was the Trachoma Project, begun by Aramco in collaboration with Harvard University's School of Public Health in 1953 to combat an eye infection that was—and is—a common cause of blindness in developing countries. The project's field director was Dr. Roger Nichols, assisted by Dottie McComb.

The disease is caused by a virus-like microorganism that infects the membranes of the inner eyelid. It is transmitted by direct contact with secretions from the eyes of



Dr. Azmi Hanna, left, and Dr. Roger Nichols, members of the trachoma research team, take a scraping from the eyelid of a Bedouin in 1957. The Trachoma Project, a joint effort by Aramco and Harvard University's School of Public Health, was in full swing during the author's tenure in Dhahran.

The endeavor involved frequent visits to oasis villages, eye examinations of individuals suspected of infection and treatment on site or in company health-care facilities. Dr. Nichols and his staff accumulated important information on the distribution and intensity of the disease over a number of years, stimulating similar research in other Middle East countries and leading to a number of publications in important biomedical science journals. The project significantly reduced the number of trachoma cases among the local population.

Roger Nichols and his family became close friends early on. The project was finally closed down in the early 1970s, after my return to the United States.

Once I was settled in my new job as a clinician in Dhahran, and with my increasing familiarity with trachoma, I began to look around for other health problems that merited research. By then, I was dividing my time between administration, patient care and teaching, on the DHC wards and at the district health centers in Ras Tanura and Abqaiq.

At any one time, I usually had a couple of patients who were hospitalized with complicated medical problems. I also consulted daily on other hospitalized patients for my general-practice colleagues.

infected people, indirectly by healthy people contaminated by victims' eye secretions, or by flies attracted to eye secretions.

The resulting inflammation and ultimate scarring damage the cornea, the "window" in front of the lens of the eye. In countries where the infection was prevalent, the condition was the most common cause of blindness. At the time Aramco partnered with Harvard, trachoma was widespread in the oases of the Eastern Province.

The project aimed to map the distribution of the infection and the extent of the resulting eye disease, treat infected individuals with certain antibiotics, maximize good personal hygiene, provide fly control, share important information with others working on the problem elsewhere, and ultimately eliminate trachoma in eastern Saudi Arabia.

This new satellite health center in Ras Tanura, opened in 1957, provided 32 beds and included laboratory, x-ray and pharmacy facilities for employees and eligible family members.





The pool near the Dhahran School was just one of the recreational facilities that provided plenty of healthy fun for the Gelpi children—and their friends—winter, spring, summer and fall.

One morning a week, after finishing my clinical and administrative chores at the DHC, I would make my way to either the Abqaiq or Ras Tanura health centers in an ancient company Mercedes sedan. I would lunch with physicians, after which one would present me with a patient with a medical problem. These patients were usually housed in the small infirmary section of the clinic.

I would see that patient, if available, and lecture on his or her problem, diagnosis and treatment, and recommend changes in medical management, as applicable.

When I returned to my office, a space shared with my two associate internists and our secretary, I'd finish the day's activities: reading electrocardiograms, glancing at requests for consultations, responding to notes about important phone calls, checking the mail as well as memos, and making a final visit to one or more of my hospitalized patients.

And then there was the enjoyable time just before leaving, spent in the well-stocked medical library with its large selection of up-to-date medical journals. At first, home was my room at Steineke Hall and supper was a meal at the Dining Hall just across the street.

My wife and our children, ages two, four and six, arrived in Dhahran in mid-

December 1959. We settled into a familiar routine: shopping in the Commissary, taking excursions to the Mail Center and Dining Hall, exploring al-Khobar and, last but not least, going to the Yacht Club.

After briefly residing in a Dhahran apartment, we moved into a very nice home facing Steineke Hall. We took up gardening, got to know our neighbors and traded in the aging sedan I'd purchased upon arrival for a mature Land Rover—allowing more distant exploration.

Our children started school, which turned out to be one of the best family experiences in memory. The Dhahran School had a solid administration and a lot of good teachers. Our children loved it and we came to love it too.



Peter Gelpi readies his water skis by his family's boat at Half Moon Bay in 1962.



The Gelpi children, Sam, Peter and Nicole, are pictured with their parents on a visit to their grandmother's home in Nashua, N.H., in late 1964.

At the advanced ages of 34, my wife and I learned to play tennis, eventually becoming B-level players. But Half Moon Bay became our playground. There was fishing off the dock with a hand line for the boys, snorkeling in clear water for my wife and me, slalom waterskiing, picnics along the waterfront, and eventually more adventurous boating down the bay to its entrance in a trawler (formerly an air-sea rescue craft) that Roger Nichols, Bill Taylor and I owned.

We later graduated to a speedy ski boat. Later still, there was sail boarding. Early on, my angling changed to spearfishing, which led to after-work underwater searches for the prized *hamur* (grouper)

at Half Moon Bay, and bringing home a catch for supper or the freezer.

On vacations, we explored the Middle East and Europe in alternate years, between round trips to the United States. This meant a couple of around-the-world-in-30-days tours that included the San Francisco Bay area and parts of Asia and the South Pacific. After leaving Aramco, our zest for travel continued well into retirement.

Lucille ultimately became active as a volunteer with a delegation from the World Health Organization, providing health education to Saudi women at Dammam Central Hospital.

I began to see service in the Medical Dept., first, as an opportunity to turn the

At the advanced ages of 34, my wife and I learned to play tennis, eventually becoming B-level players. But Half Moon Bay became our playground.

DHC into a teaching hospital and its satellite health centers in Abqaiq and Ras Tanura into classrooms. And I began to recognize a lot of peculiar diseases encountered in our clinics and hospital as exotic conditions begging for biomedical research.

I tagged along on preventive medicine's annual malaria surveys to collect blood samples. Rather than malaria parasites, I was looking for inherited red-blood-cell characteristics that might make certain people less susceptible to contracting malaria.

I personally tested blood samples in borrowed laboratory space next to the lab and discovered that a high percentage of Saudis living in the oases had genetically determined red-cell variants that would make

ARMAND GELPI



Girl Scout Leader Lucille Gelpi, left, marches with her troop in a parade heading up King's Road in 1962.

them somewhat resistant to the parasite: the sickle-cell trait; and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency. Many lacked the Duffy blood group (Fy), conferring complete resistance to the *vivax* malaria species carried by the *Anopheles* mosquito.

Thus the intensity of malarial infection in the local oases was less than that in other comparable geographic areas.

In other work, I discovered that the seasonal surge of flu-like illnesses among expatriates in Dhahran and the districts wasn't influenza. All the patients had evidence of liver involvement, along with x-ray findings of pneumonia. This suggested Q fever, an illness common in various parts of the world where individuals were exposed to cattle, sheep and goats.

Certain blood and skin tests proved that those with seasonal pneumonia had experienced a bout of Q fever. When recognized early on, the disease was, and is, easily treatable with a variety of antibiotics, whereas "flu" wasn't, and isn't. Why seasonal in Saudi Arabia? Because late spring, summer and early autumn have the most farm-animal births, with increased dispersion of infected material—with *shamals* helping to spread it considerable distances.

Saudis had their own seasonal pneumonia, which I traced to the larvae from the eggs of *Ascaris lumbricoides*, a parasitic worm that was a common intestinal parasite in Saudi Arabia and other developing countries.

A female worm produces eggs which leave the human bowel and survive for varying periods in wet, shaded areas—less

medications rather than antibiotics.

Other research included studies of cancer, unusual manifestations of human tuberculosis—so-called abdominal tuberculosis—and fatal hepatitis in pregnant Saudis.

A new, enjoyable diversion was my association with, and later presidency of, the Gulf Medical Association. A special relationship also developed with the medical school at the American University of Beirut, with visits to Beirut and visits of AUB consultants to Dhahran.

While on a month-long "safari of a lifetime" in East Africa in 1966, I began to think about developing academic connections in United States, close to the Bay Area. So on my return to Dhahran late that year I asked for a

leave of absence to improve my research capabilities in a familiar locale, northern California. I arranged a fellowship in Stanford's Department of Physiology, and in early summer of 1967 my family and I were on our way to a new, temporary home in Palo Alto.

At the end of the year I expected to have a blood test for antibodies against *ascaris* that I could apply in the field to diagnose suspected cases of *ascaris* pneumonia. I was disappointed, however, and felt that my investigations had run out of inspiration and needed a stimulus toward success beyond Stanford.

---

**A new, enjoyable diversion was my association with, and later presidency of, the Gulf Medical Association. A special relationship also developed with the medical school at the American University of Beirut, with visits to Beirut and visits of AUB consultants to Dhahran.**

so in intense sunlight. So new infections were primarily acquired during the winter or early spring, hence the timing for pneumonia victims.

Why pneumonia with an intestinal infection? Because eggs hatching in the bowel release microscopic larvae, many of which reach the lungs through the veins from the intestine. From the lungs they continue up the respiratory passages and are swallowed, reaching maturity in the intestine.

The pneumonia is a form of allergy which can be relieved with cortisone-like



**An Aramco F-27 overflies the Dhahran Health Center in 1966, seven years after the author joined the Medical Dept.**

Still, I was ready to return to Dhahran and continue with other investigations. Before moving, I found out that lab space would not be available at the DHC. That, combined with the fact that our children were approaching boarding-school age, helped me decide to return without my family, serve out a few months of my employment and resign. The company and I parted, still friends.

Thus, in early 1969 I found myself a stranger in a strange land. I had almost 40 years of professional life ahead of me. And I had to start from scratch.

This new beginning included service with an Office of Economic Opportunity neighborhood health center, Stanford's student-health center and medical-school faculty, Veterans Administration medical centers and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's occupational-health team. Lastly, I served as a consultant for a National Institute on Aging project on fitness and aging.

As a family, we moved through a succession of homes in the Bay Area to Sonoma in 1986 and, finally, to Seattle and a retirement community in late 2007. Through the years, I not only had fond memories of Aramco, its people, the Medical Dept. and my excitement about medicine and health care while in Saudi Arabia, but I was able to visit Dhahran during four consecutive summers to provide vacation relief and tidy up odds and ends of research. My last visit was in 1981.

As testimony to my time in Dhahran, I left 26 publications in biomedical journals concerning exotic disease and (as editor) *Health and Disease in Saudi Arabia—An Aramco Perspective*, a two-volume book with 13 contributors, all pioneers in health care for Aramco.

There's a classic post-World War II film about veterans' disappointments and problems in returning to civilian life that is somewhat out of context with its title: *The Best Years of Our Lives*. I like to think that my adventures and those of my family in Saudi Arabia were the best years of our lives...beginning with that first flight.



**ABOVE:** Armand Gelpi and his late wife Lucille posed for this picture at their home in Seattle in 2009, their last stop together after returning to the United States in the late 1960s. **RIGHT:** The Gelpi family discovered the pleasures of exploring al-Khobar—here decorated with a festive arch—early on.

# Barnstorming



## “I’VE GOT A STORY TO TELL YOU,”

says Bob Morgan, who flew for Aramco from January 1946 to July 1947 and for Saudi Arabian Airlines for two years after that. And he does, indeed, for his “frequent flyers” included King Abdulaziz Al Sa’ud and Max Steineke, the geologist whose stubborn belief that the kingdom held petroleum helped usher Saudi Arabia into the oil age.

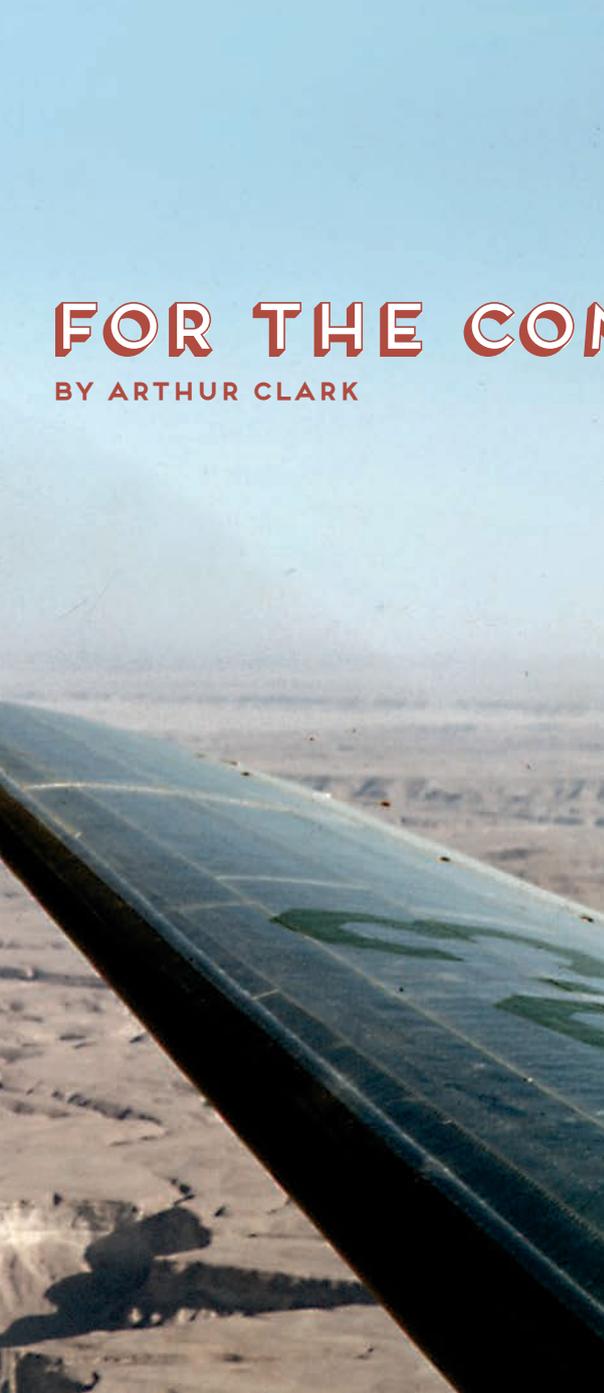


Bob Morgan proudly sports a Saudi Arabian Airlines insignia piece that he and a fellow pilot sketched out in Cairo in the late '40s. **Top:** Royal aircraft fly over the the Tuwaiq Escarpment west of Riyadh in this photo taken by Morgan.

BOTTOM: ARTHUR CLARK

# FOR THE COMPANY...AND THE KING

BY ARTHUR CLARK



Morgan was based in Dhahran during his tour with the company nearly seven decades ago. Piloting in Saudi Arabia then “was barnstorming at its ultimate,” he says.

“We had everything in common with the Wright brothers except for one thing: We had a modern aircraft.... Runways were nonexistent, the same for navigational aids, traffic control or weather facilities.”

Pilots also had to deal with poor charts—and insects. Morgan recalls running into locust swarms so thick he had to “scrape them off the windows” with one hand while flying at 100 miles per hour with the other.

And he remembers the first time he flew to Asmara, Eritrea, under British administration in the ‘40s. “There were no maps” and the “hills” around the capital proved to be several thousand feet higher than he was advised, he says with a wry smile.

The charts made by the Italians, who had been in charge there before, “were not very accurate. You had to improvise.”

In Dhahran, Morgan and two other TWA pilots shared a house with four Aramco supervisory personnel. Morgan was just 21; his fellow flyers were 22 and 23.

“Aramco treated us well,” he remembers, noting that Dhahran had “very few houses and about two dozen schoolchildren and two teachers.” He patronized company facilities like the Dining Hall, calling the food there “very good.”

A photo of Morgan posing in front of a TWA plane in Jiddah in 1946 appeared in the Spring issue of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah*. Aramco leased two DC-3s from TWA before it began building its own fleet.

The picture ran with a story about the Aviation Dept.’s search for historical photos, especially the Noorduyn Norseman (operated from 1945-1950) and the Fairchild 24 (1946-1950). The search continues, and Court Gunderson asks anyone with photos to contact him at [courtney.gunderson@aramco.com](mailto:courtney.gunderson@aramco.com) or [courtgunderson@me.com](mailto:courtgunderson@me.com).

Morgan’s main jobs were flying food and supplies, along with personnel, into Dhahran. The food came largely from Asmara.

Before signing on with TWA, during World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in North Africa. After Aramco’s leasing deal with TWA ended, he became a pilot for the nascent Saudi Arabian Airlines, also through TWA.

Morgan was the first American to receive a Saudi pilot’s license (#22, signed by Finance Minister Abdullah al-Sulayman). He remembers flying King Abdulaziz to hunting trips on “Saudi-Arabian-Royal-One,” the DC-3 that President Franklin Roosevelt gave the king after they met early in 1945 at the Great Bitter Lake on the Suez Canal to discuss the shape of the postwar world.



Morgan stands next to a DC-3 that Aramco contracted from TWA to ferry men and supplies—and carry out mapping projects—prior to acquiring its own fleet of big planes.

On those trips, a Bedouin guide directed him from the cockpit. “We always got there,” Morgan says with amazement.

He recalls sitting beside the king at dinner when flight crews overnigh- ted at a palace in Riyadh. “I sat on his left and Bob Kay [another TWA pilot] sat on his right,” Morgan says.

“The king had a certain fascina- tion with pilots and flying. He was one of the greatest people I ever met.”

Morgan remembers flying Prince Faysal to Damascus in 1946, soon after it had gained independence from France, and taking him “on his first trip to Rome....When he went somewhere, I usually flew him.”

When he became a pilot for Saudi Arabian Airlines, crewmembers had no uniforms or insignia. So he and a fellow pilot sketched out the first staff emblems in Cairo and gave a jeweler there enough silver riyals to mint them. There was enough left over for the jeweler to make a bracelet with his name on it, too.

Morgan also recalls flights with Max Steineke. The geologist often sat in the copilot’s seat to get the best look at the land, and talked about the secrets that lay below.

Cairo was TWA’s maintenance hub, so Bob Morgan frequently had the chance to see sights like the Pyramids of Giza. **Below:** At work in the kingdom he often had to find landing places without any clear markings in desolate territory.



“Max Steineke was one of my best friends,” Morgan says. “He taught me so much.”

“Flying over the desert with him was the best school session I ever had in my life,” he adds, noting that Steineke told him that there was oil “from the southern tip of Saudi Arabia all the way up to Kirkuk” in Iraq.



This well- appointed hunting camp in northern Saudi Arabia was one of the sites to which Morgan flew King Abdulaziz when he was piloting for Aramco in 1946-1947.



Bob Morgan snapped this photo of Dhahran in 1946. The old King's Road ball field is top left, off the boulevard.

Steineke was also involved in mapping flights for the Trans-Arabian Pipeline, or Tapline, that Morgan flew in 1946.

Remarkably, Morgan got in touch with *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah* the same day a staff member turned up the official report on the flights to find the best route for the western half of the pipeline to the Mediterranean. The report matched almost exactly what he'd recorded in his logbook.

"It's a small world!" he says.

Bill Chandler, who became Tapline's President and CEO, reported that a "Douglas DC-3, one of several TWA planes under charter to Aramco, was based at the Lydda [Tel Aviv] airport in Palestine and used for all air reconnaissance work." He said there were five

flights out of Lydda between June 16 and June 21, 1946.

"During each flight a detailed record was kept of the courses flown, landmarks observed, and various types of terrain encountered," Chandler wrote. "Photos of important features and terrain types were taken.... A system of comparative evaluation of terrain for road and pipe line construction was set up...."

That was followed by a series of ground traverses, some done in secret, by car.

Morgan's logbook shows that he or a fellow pilot flew the mapping missions in DC-3 #3519.

"On June 16, we flew 3519 from Cairo [TWA's maintenance hub] to Lydda, Palestine...which was then under British control,

primarily military," Morgan says. "The aircraft was devoid of TWA markings."

The crew wore U.S. military khakis without insignia and carried their passports. When they arrived, the British detained them, pending a check with U.S. officials.

The first flight took place that day, with Steineke "ramrodding the entire operation," Morgan says. "The aircraft had six seats bolted to the floor situated behind the cockpit wall. [Steineke] had an overstuffed upholstered chair installed by the cabin door to see forward and direct his crew of no more than five.

"We opened the escape hatches on either side of the aircraft and used hand cameras to take photos.

"We were handed instructions as to where to go and basically flew grids...at around several thousand feet" to avoid



Left: Morgan strokes his pet gazelle, which soon disappeared—he thinks into someone's cooking pot. Below: Morgan, standing back row, right, posed for this photo with fellow TWA flyers and their Aramco housemates in Dhahran in 1947.





Ali Al-Mutairi, director of Public Affairs at ASC, listens to Bob Morgan tell a barnstorming tale at the Annuitants Reunion in Asheville, N.C., in September, as he hands Morgan's daughter Jan the flyer's Saudi pilot's license (shown below)—the first one issued to an American pilot.

turbulence at lower altitudes. "At times, they wanted a close visual look and we descended much lower."

During most of the mission, the pilots stayed in Tel Aviv, but they didn't travel by taxi. "In those days, there was much dissension in Palestine and our transportation was by an armed convoy, and this made for a long day," says Morgan.

One day a grenade wrecked the right engine of the DC-3 when it was parked at Haifa. It did "minimal damage" to the plane, which was quickly repaired, he says.

It wasn't all work and no play, however. The crew stayed at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem on June 20.

"Dress at the King David was formal," Morgan recalls. "The military wore their best, except there were some Scottish officers who wore kilts. The women were beautifully gowned and government officials wore dress trousers, white shirts and cummerbunds."

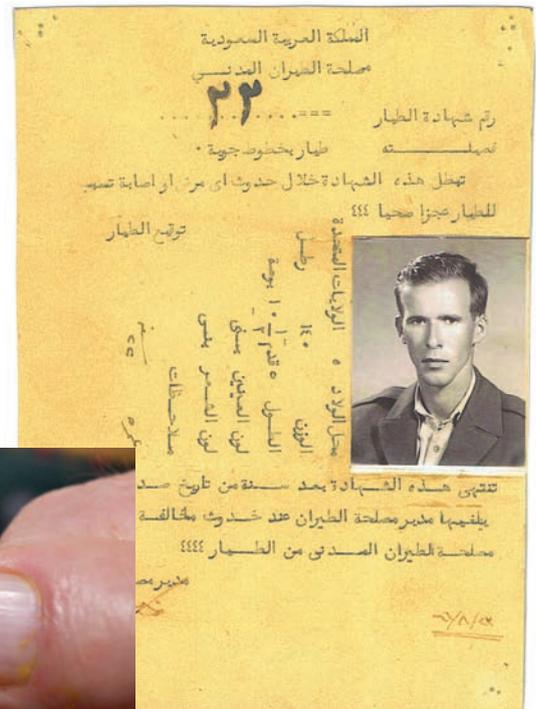
"We were like special guests, but our attire was not that great..." he says, noting that they got the loan of the same kit as the

government officials. "The only item that fit was the cummerbund!"

Mapping continued through June 21, when Morgan and his two fellow pilots flew to Jerusalem and then to Cairo, where they traded airplanes and returned to Dhahran, he says, calling the job one of the many "interesting experiences" that fly out of his logbook every time he opens it.

Morgan flew to the kingdom a number of times after leaving Saudi Arabian Airlines in 1949, taking pilgrims on chartered aircraft from Karachi or Casablanca to Jiddah, for example.

He finally retired in 1985 with 37,000 hours of flying time under his belt. Could he get back into the cockpit of a DC-3 to take the controls again? "Just give me a few hours of orientation time," he replies, flashing his famous wry grin.

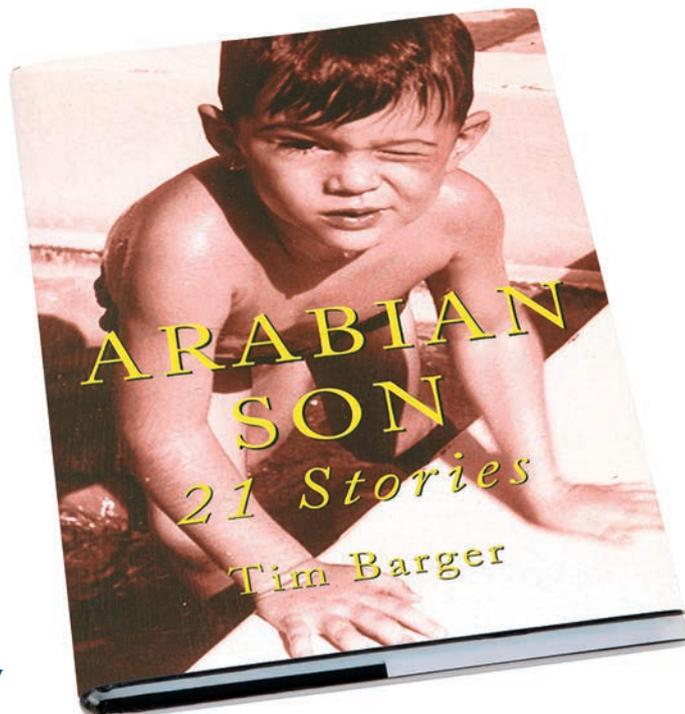


At his home in North Carolina, Morgan shows off another Saudi Arabian Airlines insignia piece designed by him and a fellow TWA pilot in Cairo in the late 1940s.

# ARABIAN SON RINGS TRUE

BY Arthur Clark

Tim Barger, who was born in Dhahran in 1947, says he grew up “thinking that blinding heat, humidity and howling dust-storms were normal.” His book *Arabian Son, 21 Stories*, published this year by Selwa Press, chronicles a journey of discovery that will spark the memories of many readers—especially those from his Brat generation.



Barger's tales begin around kindergarten and go through the time when he was back in the kingdom with his own family in the late '70s, living in Jiddah where he started a video-electronics business. They begin with the tales of a lad's planned and unplanned adventures and close with a story or two that show what he learned because of—or in spite of—some remarkable exploits.

There are stories of playing hooky—for a month in kindergarten, no less!—and of Barger and his pals tunneling into the Dining Hall and the Theater in ways that evoke visions of Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb, except that there is ice cream or a free film, rather than a boy king, at the end.

Some of Tim Barger's *Arabian Son* tales focus on flights in the kingdom. If he writes a sequel, it may contain a story about this flight, aboard a Royal Saudi Air Force C-130 in 2012, with a group of Aramco antiquities donors.



And there are stories of road trips that show that dreaming can be dangerous. One is about two 17-year-old returning students who nearly suffer heatstroke hitchhiking from diving jobs in Safaniya to Dhahran—en route to a weekend dance in Abqaiq. Don't worry, they get there, just a little worse for wear.

Another story takes place at around the same time—1964—when you'd think the message about proper planning had got through. That's when “my great friend Ben Michaels, his older brother Roger and I decided it would be a great idea to walk to Ras Tanura,” Barger writes. This time, they travel by night, so it's cooler, but hardly better.

Finally, after Ben collapses, a “beat-up Chevy Impala with three passengers” picks up the trio. In Ras Tanura, on the beach, they “watch the blue-green chroma rise in the sea” and have a vision that's almost worth the trials of the trip.

But Barger saves what many readers might find the best—stories about adult life in the kingdom—for near the end.

“Abu Hamid” is about an aged Bedouin taxi driver who collects Barger for a trip to the Jiddah airport in November 1978. He's heading to a job in Riyadh.

When Abu Hamid arrives in his battered taxi he's suspicious of his foreign passenger,

and “begrudgingly” lets him in—only to turn off the car a few miles down the road to ask about the Jonestown massacre, which has just been reported on the radio. Barger explains that the cult leader was *majnoon*—crazy—with a *shaitan*—devil—in his heart.

That satisfies Abu Hamid's curiosity, for he says, “*Khalas*, finished, Jimmee Jones *majnoon*,” writes Barger, “...as if to say that all Americans weren't insane, it was only Jimmee Jones who was nuts.”

“Flying to Riyadh,” Barger writes, “I kept thinking about Abu Hamid. Born around 1910, in his lifetime he would witness the end of generations of tribal conflicts swept away by the sword of King Abdul Aziz Al Sa'ud.... And then the beginning of the end of his entire way of life when the first pickup trucks appeared in the desert. Now he was...listening to the radio, apparently intrigued about the news of Americans and their inexplicable behavior.”

“Watching the desert unfold beneath me, its surface...now dried up like the wrinkles on the old man's face, I realized that that Abu Hamid was more sophisticated than the average American,” he adds, noting that at that time earthquakes in Italy, coups in Chile and the death of 7,000 Indians in Bhopal “barely registered on an American public immersed in wondering ‘Who Shot JR?’”

In another airport story, “Special Techniques,” Barger gives a hilarious account of how to board an MEA 747 that is 100-percent overbooked.

It's a tale worthy of short film that will, like many of his stories, resonate with expatriate readers from the region.



## SIXTOS BLOOM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY *Chika Udezue*

Clad in his favorite Wadi al-Saeed Golf Club shirt from his 'Udhailiyah days, master cultivator Patrick Sixto looks over a fine garlic harvest from the garden he and his wife Lee have created at their home in a suburb of Victoria, British Columbia.



When Patrick and Lee Sixto retired from Saudi Aramco a decade ago, Patrick announced via *The Arabian Sun* that he planned to spend his time gardening. Today, the man who was a keen gardener in 'Udhailiyah, growing tomatoes, carrots and lettuces "as much as the heat and space allowed," is making good on that ambition.

He is a three-time champion grower of the largest onions, garlic and peppers at the Saanich Fair—western Canada's oldest continuously running agricultural show in Saanichton, British Columbia—where his Kelsae onions recently weighed in at an average five pounds. The 70-year-old is a master composter and grows organic produce.

Patrick cultivates his crops in his home garden in a leafy suburb of Victoria, British Columbia's capital on picturesque Vancouver Island, where my husband Emmanuel

and I recently paid our old friends a visit. It's definitely cooler there than it was "at home" in 'Udhailiyah.

The average temperature in Victoria is about 50°F, with a mean high of 63° in August. That compared with a high of 116° in 'Udhailiyah in August this year.

The Sixtos relocated to British Columbia after working at Aramco for 13 years. Patrick was a senior mechanical inspector in Abqaiq Projects and later a field inspector at 'Uthmaniyah Gas Plant, the position from

which he retired. Lee taught at Abqaiq International School and retired as a fifth-grade teacher at the 'Udhailiyah School.

Visitors to the Sixto's property gaze open-mouthed as they enter the drive. Many never make their way through the front door as their feet follow their eyes and noses to the arbored and trellised walkway heavy with flowering vines on the right and fruit-laden trees on the left.

Scattered about in this profusion of colors and plants are treasures that speak



to the Sixtos' sojourn in Saudi Arabia. They include ornamental pots, hanging objects with Middle Eastern flavors and motifs and a beautifully carved antique Hofuf bench.

The couple's orchard boasts over 100 fruit trees: 67 varieties of apple, along with plum, pear, fig, lemon, cherry and more.

"Obviously, we produce more than we need, so we share our harvest with friends and neighbors," Patrick enthuses. The rest is frozen, canned or otherwise preserved, a job that Lee enjoys.

"Nothing beats homemade jams, jellies or even tomato ketchups, and the good thing is that I know exactly what is in every jar," says Lee, who is also in charge of the flowers.

The garden is laid out artistically: Each section is enclosed by a low wooden hedge built by Patrick, who took a full-time six-month college course in carpentry to perfect that skill.

There are beds for garlic, sweet corn, green beans, carrots, squash, kale, Swiss chard, cucumber, asparagus, potato, lettuce, cabbage and onions, including the Egyptian walking onion. Some plants are enclosed in wire mesh to protect them from hungry

herbivores like deer, while greenhouses nurture various types of tomatoes and peppers.

Among the succulent berries is a special bed of raspberries and blueberries reserved for six-year-old Jayden Roberts, the son of their daughter Lorraine and her husband Dean.

The Sixtos' herb garden contains all the necessities to produce aromatic dishes in a good kitchen: sage, parsley, rosemary, thyme, mint, basil, dill and bay leaves.

"I believe that one could live off the produce from one's garden," says Patrick. "By growing your own, you also control what is used to fertilize the soil and what is sprayed as insecticide."

When not tending garden, Patrick likes to don his faded-but-treasured Abqaiq 'Ain Nakhl cap for a round of golf with friends. He and Lee also enjoy walks, cycling and meeting old friends and making new ones.

The couple from 'Udhailiyah has indeed gone green—in a multi-flavored fashion—in Canada.



The Sixtos cultivate blueberries in a special bed for their six-year-old grandson, Jayden Roberts. He's the son of their daughter Lorraine and her husband Dean.



These Kelsae onions are well on their way to becoming championship contenders. Patrick Sixto recently exhibited examples of this Scottish hybrid that weighed in at an average five pounds.



**TOP RIGHT:** Springtime figs, promising to turn a juicy golden brown, flourish in the Sixto's garden.  
**MIDDLE RIGHT:** The ex-Aramcons' garden features herbs, tomatoes and lettuces that would make a master chef's mouth water. Patrick Sixto built the enclosures for the raised beds.  
**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Not to be outdone by her green-thumbed spouse, Lee Sixto's flowers add color to the couple's garden. Although native to Mexico, these dahlias obviously love the sunshine in Victoria which, though far to the north, boasts a temperate climate.

# IN MEMORIAM

## MARY COLLIER

May 11, 2014

Predeceased by her husband Tom and survived by her children David and Heather. She arrived in Dhahran in 1948 to work at the Health Center and married a few years later. Correspondence may be sent to David at 4627A Pinehurst Dr. South, Austin, TX 78747.

## JUDGE EDWARD DOSSETT

June 10, 2014

Survived by his wife Shirley and children Dean and Cynthia. He joined Aramco in 1987 as a senior electrician and retired in 1998. Correspondence may be sent to Cynthia Aldrich at 10253 N. Farm Rd. 51, Walnut Grove, MO 65770.

## ELEANOR I. FITZGIBBONS

October 14, 2011

Predeceased by her husband, retiree Karl Fitzgibbons, and her daughter Karla. Survived by her sons Dale and Gerald. She arrived in Ras Tanura with her family in 1959, later living in Dhahran and Abqaiq. She worked as a nurse in all three districts. Correspondence may be sent to Dale at 4205 Twin Ridge Ct., Cedar Rapids, IA 52403.

## LUCILLE GELPI

March 3, 2014

Survived by her husband, Dr. Armand P. Gelpi, and her children Sam, Peter and Nicole. She volunteered with a World Health Organization delegation, providing health education to Saudi women at the Dammam Central Hospital. Correspondence may be sent to Dr. Gelpi at 7124 47th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136.

## STEVE HARDY

May 24, 2014

Survived by his wife Sandra and sons Chris and Lance. He joined Aramco in 1974 as a maintenance engineer, working in Producing, Operations Engineering and Training, in Abqaiq, 'Udhailiyah and Dhahran. He retired in 1997. Correspondence may be sent to Sandra at 13615 SW 1st Lane, Newberry, FL 32669.

## BERNADETTE "ETTIE" HEAVEY

January 7, 2014

She was a nurse at the Dhahran Health Center from approximately 1970 to 1990. Correspondence may be sent to

her family c/o St. Mary's Church, Main St., Ballygar, Galway, Ireland.

## GERARDA MARGARETHA HILL

August 30, 2014

Survived by her husband Bob and sons Robert and Alexander. Born in Haarlem, Holland, during World War II, she was selected to represent her hometown and the Netherlands at its world-renowned flower festival in the early 1960s. She worked at the Heritage Gallery in Dhahran between 1996 and 2004, serving as senior docent. Correspondence may be sent to Bob at [robertnhill@yahoo.com](mailto:robertnhill@yahoo.com).

## HASSAN I. AL-HUSSEINI

May 4, 2014

Survived by his wife Soheir Al-Idrisi and children Sahar, Dina and Ibrahim. He worked for the company from 1979-1998, the last 10 years as a senior planning consultant in Corporate Planning. At the time of his death, he was an editorial consultant at *GeoArabia* and vice president of its publisher, Gulf Petrolink. He also served as director of communications for the Saudi Arabian General Investments Authority in Riyadh from 2002 to 2003. Correspondence may be sent to Soheir at [idrisisa3@yahoo.com](mailto:idrisisa3@yahoo.com).

## HUGH INGRAM

March 30, 2014

Survived by his daughter Julie. A long-time employee of the Terminal Dept. in Ras Tanura, he retired in 2002. Correspondence may be sent to Julie Ingram at [jing3@yahoo.com](mailto:jing3@yahoo.com).

## JAMES E. JAY

February 14, 2014

Survived by his sons John and James, and daughters Janis and Carol Eileen. He worked for Aramco from 1963 to 1973. In the spring of 1970 he served on the Training Department task force that developed recommendations for the Apprenticeship Program, which began that fall in the Ras Tanura Industrial Training Center and Industrial Training Shop. Correspondence may be sent to Eileen Kuhlmann at 1200 Foxboro Ln., Mesquite, TX 75150.

## CHARLES "CHARLIE" D. JOHNSON

August 14, 2014

Survived by his wife Sheila, sons Jerry,

Charles, Stephen, and daughter Ana. He joined Aramco in 1966 and retired in 1982 from the Training Dept. He was predeceased by his first wife, Ceci. Correspondence may be sent to Sheila at 2608 Danbury Dr., Longmont, CO 80503.

## ARLYNE M. KELBERER

June 8, 2014

Predeceased by her husband John. The couple moved to the Middle East in 1950, where John held positions with the Trans Arabian Pipeline Company (Tapline) in Saudi Arabia and Beirut, and later Aramco, where he served as CEO from 1978-1988. Survived by her son John Michael and daughters Mary, Margaret, Barbara, Elizabeth, Kristine and Anne Marie. Correspondence may be sent to Mary Renquist at 6400 Barrie Rd., Apt. 1707, Edina, MN 55435.

## JIM KLINE

March 15, 2014

Survived by his wife Lucy and children Kevin and Janine. He joined Aramco in 1957 as a petroleum geologist and retired in 1992. He appeared with a Saudi colleague on the cover of *Aramco World* in April 1960, in a picture titled "Oil Explorers." Correspondence may be sent to Lucy at 37 Strawberry Hill Rd., Bedford, NH 03110.



## ROBERT "BOB" E. LUKEN

June 20, 2014

Survived by his wife Rita Lorraine and five children. He joined Aramco in 1980 as a chemical engineer and worked at 'Uthmaniyah Gas Plant, retiring in 1990. Correspondence may be sent to Lorraine Luken at 1010 Richwood Way, Apt #17, LaGrange, KY 40031.

## PAUL PEDERSON

March 20, 2014

Survived by his wife Claire and children Page and Lisa. He enjoyed a long career with Aramco and Chevron as a safety engineer. Correspondence may be sent to Claire at 222 Robinhood Pl., San Antonio, TX 78209-3333.

MARTHA LOUISE PUTNAM

February 28, 2014

Predeceased by her husband Rhea and survived by her children Pam, Stephen, Lyn and Peter. Correspondence may be sent to the family c/o Friedens Lutheran Church, 131 S. Main St., Friedens, PA 15541.

ABDUL KHALIQ QURESHI

April 28, 2014

Survived by his wife Zaheda Begum, daughter Shehbano Ali and son Mohammed Tariq Abdul Aleem. He joined Aramco in 1955 and retired as a meters and measurements specialist in

the Terminal Operations Dept. in 1986. In that capacity, he established three laboratories and developed a program to prepare Saudi employees to work as lab technicians. He started the Radhwa Tennis Assn. in 1955, serving as its first president. Correspondence may be sent to Zaheda Begum Qureshi at 17523 W. Muirfield Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810.

MOHAMMAD JAMIL SHAMSI

May 5, 2014

Survived by his wife Yusra Begum, sons Shakeel, Muhammad and Adeel, and daughters Shazia and Shaista. He joined

the Power Distribution Maintenance Dept. in Ras Tanura in 1972 and left the company in 1984. Correspondence may be sent to Adeel Shamsi at [adeelshamsi@ieee.org](mailto:adeelshamsi@ieee.org).

ROSEMARY SMITH

July 3, 2014

Predeceased by her husband Richard, who joined Aramco in 1951 and retired in 1974. Survived by her children Alexander and Antoinette. Correspondence may be sent to Alexander at 201 Castile St., Venice, FL 34285.

MAXINE STEINEKE GOAD—AMONG FIRST CONTINGENT OF KIDS

Maxine Steineke Goad, who was among the first children to live in Dhahran, died July 28, 2014. She was the daughter of Chief Geologist Max Steineke, whose belief that the kingdom held petroleum paid off when the California Arabian Standard Oil Company (Casoc) struck oil at Damman Well No. 7 in March 1938.

Maxine arrived in Dhahran in September 1937, at age seven, with her mother Florence and her sister Marian. The Steineke girls and Mitze Henry and Marilyn Witherspoon, the daughters of two other Casoc pioneers, made up the first contingent of foreign youngsters in the kingdom. But the two other children were often away, so Maxine and her younger sister were frequently the only children in the oil camp.

Being such a novelty had its benefits.

"Drillers and geologists went out of their way to bring the children presents and pets..., wrote Wallace Stegner in his book *Discovery!* "The family cottages were shortly flooded with baby gazelles, hedgehogs and salukis."

"They spoiled us," Maxine's sister Marian Steineke Taaffe told *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah*. "They brought us all kinds of little animals."

On Dec. 23, 1937, Maxine, Marian and their mother, along with the other

expatriate wives and children, met Crown Prince Sa'ud, who had come to Damman from Riyadh in a caravan of cars.

Maxine learned to play cribbage from drillers in the Clubhouse in Dhahran, and ended up beating them at their own game. She also went on outings with her family to places like Half Moon Bay. As a later writer put it, they "would pile into the car and head for a picnic at the beach or a tumble down the dunes."

Marian said that her father "talked about geology all the time" and that he would discuss rocks and what they meant on trips into the desert with his family, when he wasn't out exploring himself.

In the fall of 1940, Florence Steineke and her daughters were in Bombay waiting to catch a steamer to Bahrain after a long vacation in the United States when they learned that Dhahran had been bombed by an Italian plane. That triggered the evacuation of dependants, and they returned to their home in California.

Maxine didn't come back to Saudi Arabia until late 1986, bringing along two grown-up children, Marian and Christopher. Two other children wanted to come, but were too busy to make the trip.

In an interview with Damman TV, she and her daughter expressed delight at the



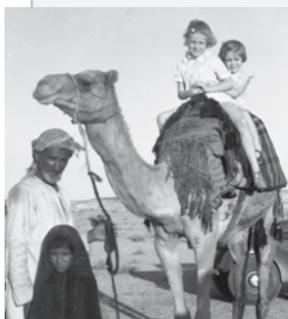
Maxine Steineke Goad posed with her children Marian and Christopher at the Oil Exhibit Center in Dhahran when she returned to the kingdom in 1986, after a 46-year absence.

Arab hospitality they had encountered and admiration for the rapid development of the kingdom.

Maxine earned a master's degree in physics from Stanford University, her father's alma mater. She was an avid conservationist who worked for the New Mexico Environment Dept., playing a leading role in developing groundwater-protection regulations. She retired in the '90s, but in 2003 New Mexico's governor appointed her to the state's Water Quality Control Commission.

In 2008, she received the New Mexico Earth Science Achievement Award and in 2013 she received the Sierra Club's National Distinguished Service Award for her lifelong commitment to protecting the environment.

She is survived by her children Marian, Chris and Donna, and her sister Marian. Correspondence may be sent to Marian Goad at [marituia11@gmail.com](mailto:marituia11@gmail.com).



Maxine Steineke, front, and her sister Marian ride a camel in the late 1930s.

PLEASANT DAYS FALL 2014

# Al~Ayyam Al~Jamilah الأيام الجميلة

ISSN-1319-1512

Aramco Services Company  
Public Affairs Department  
P.O. Box 2106  
Houston, Texas 77252-2106

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Houston, TX  
Permit No. 625



Staci Husted-Hosford, top, poses with her Reunion Committee team, from left: her mother Susan Long Husted, (DH'77-87), her brother Del Husted (DH'82), Diana Cameron-Keller (DH'84), Carol Goff-Hlavaty (DH'82), Sandy Acuna-Klein (DH'86), Liz Germani (AB'84) and Laura Bissell-Comtois (DH'83).

## **BULL-RIDING ON FOR 15TH BRATS REUNION IN HOUSTON?**

The 15th biennial AramcoBrats Reunion is returning to Houston on Memorial Day weekend (May 21-25) 2015. The event's "Meet and Greet" day, May 22, "will be done in True Texas style. A mechanical bull may be in the works," says Houstonian Staci Husted-Hosford (DH'84), Reunion Committee chairperson. The first Brats Reunion was held in Houston in 1989, and returned in 1991, 1995 and 2005, making it the top reunion venue. "The last reunion hosted in Houston...was one of our largest," with around 850 registrants, Husted-Hosford notes. "We expect this one to be a big draw as well." Registration starts in early January 2015. More information is available at <http://www.aramco-brats.com/Events/Reunion>, or [houstonrc@aramco-brats.com](mailto:houstonrc@aramco-brats.com).