

Al-Ayyam Al-Jamila

Al-Ayyam Al-Jamila
"These Pleasant Days"
Summer 1984



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

"In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful."
Holy Quran

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On the cover:

'Asir Province, the Kingdom's highest and wettest region, is covered with lush terraced fields.

Please forward address changes to:

Aramco Services Company
Public Affairs Department
1800 Augusta Drive, Suite 300
Houston, TX 77057

Attention: Donna Drake

Attach old mailing label to your change of address notice. One notice will suffice for *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamila*, *The Arabian Sun* and *Aramco World Magazine*.

Letters

Balaton, Minnesota

In Balaton, MN, I'm off the beaten path for Aramcons so I eagerly await the *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamila* to keep track of dear friends. Many thanks for your interesting news.

In May, Rosine graduated from College St. Teresa with a B.S. in Mathematics and a minor in Music. During the summer she toured with a friend in Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Germany, traveling by train and rented car.

During the spring, in answer to an application she sent off, she received a contract to teach mathematics in a large Catholic high school, Columbus in Waterloo, IA, just 300 miles from home. It has been a most enjoyable experience for her. She teaches computers, too.

Rosine and I would love to receive "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" slide kit. It would be helpful in school programs. Thank you kindly for these informative pictures.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Arthur Hermodson

San Francisco, California

Unfortunately, there is sad news to report. This morning (February 1, 1984) I had a phone call from Rita Driscoll Drew's husband notifying me that Rita had died. Rita was a medical secretary in Dhahran from 1955 to 1961. After marrying William J. Drew, who was with the State Department, she spent some years with him in India before returning to the U.S.; William later retired from the State Department.

Besides her husband and son, Jonathan, Rita is survived by several sisters and brothers. Her husband's address:

William J. Drew
27 Hatch Road
Falmouth Village, MA 02540
Sincerely,
Toni Kant

Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia

Dear Mrs. Ruth McClain,

Your letter of April 9, 1984, inviting me to attend the Annuitants' Reunion in October brought many exciting memories with it.

I started working as a contractor with Aramco in 1936. Since then I have had association with many, many great people in Aramco who are now listed in the book of annuitants or have left us for good. The non-stop day and night duties at construction sites

or on drilling rigs in open air with sand all around them did not discourage these pioneers of Aramco. They worked hand in hand with local people, helped them to develop, showed courage and devotion on the job. Air conditioning, television and other modern luxuries were not available. But they did their jobs so well that Aramco is proud of their achievements.

I share so much with these 'Aramco Builders' that I wanted to shake hands with them to refresh the old memories. My schedule does not allow it this year as I am totally occupied in renovation and upgrading of my hospital. However, I shall plan ahead for the next gathering.

I have noted many friends in the booklet you have sent me. They surely know me and will remember me. I hope they get my regards and appreciation for their well done job in my beloved country. I also hope and wish that the current Aramcons maintain their tradition of hard, honest and devoted work.

Please convey my regards to the group.

Mohammad H. Dossary

Aldergrove, British Columbia, Canada

So much water has gone under the bridge that I am not sure if I answered your nice letter of a way back—July 25, 1983—perhaps just adopted the “waiting attitude”—hoping to hear more in regard to the elusive Dr. Esther Ames.

From this end, on checking the stud books of the Arabian Horse Registry, it would appear that Dr. Ames had the mare, *Mahraa, bred by Abu Raseyn, producing a filly, Bint Mahraa, and Dr. Ames' address is given as New York. The filly traveled (somehow) to Eastern Canada where Mr. Barry Burnett (then of Staffordsville, Ontario and now of Langley, British Columbia) had it bred. I have been trying to contact him without avail.

God Bless your patience and cheers to Aramco!

Most sincerely,
**Mrs. Vivian Hayward
Breakwell**

Wichita Falls, Texas

We have surely enjoyed showing the slides and cassette tape of “The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.” It doesn't matter if one has been there or not, our mixed groups have been very interested in Saudi Arabia. Thank you kindly for keeping us informed of their rapid growth with pictures.

Next week we receive the Paragon Steel Structure home kit from Phoenix, AZ. We have finished clearing the lot and putting in the foundation in Nocona Hills. We are very excited about the project and our neighbors are also. Tom also does the plumbing and electrical.

Just had a letter from Father Eugene L. Watrin of Kathmandu, Nepal. He is going to meet us at the Annuitants' Reunion in San Diego, October 5 to 7. Don't know any more of his stateside travel plans.

Thanks for all the interesting Aramco publications. Hope to see you also at the reunion.

Sincerely yours,
Tom and Lucile Hauck

Ontario, Canada

The Mariados family takes this opportunity to thank all of you in the Public Affairs Department for so kindly sending us *The Arabian Sun* monthly edition and all the other news magazines for us annuitants.

Since retiring at the end of March '82, my family and I are happily settled in Ottawa.

We would love to see all of our friends and we also take this opportunity to invite all our friends who are in this part of the world or visiting to come to our home.

Our home is always open to all our friends and of course to all Aramcons. Could you please send me the Arabian slides and the follow-up cassettes. We have so many friends here who want to know more about our days with Aramco since we always talk of them with so much pride.

We wish the best of luck to everybody in that office.

Yours sincerely,
Anthony E. Mariados

Retirements

Edited from *The Arabian Sun*

Dr. William Steen



Considering how we came to be where we are is an interesting exercise in unraveling a thread of events. Dr. William Steen arrived at Dhahran International Airport on a sweltering night in June 1975, with his wife Pat and their two youngest children, Dick and Debbie; the circumstances leading to this event actually have their roots in Steen's boyhood relationship with a medical missionary to mainland China, Dr. Adrian Webb.

William, who retired April 1 from his position as chief, Emergency Medical Services, credits Dr. Webb with having instilled in him a taste for the adventure and challenge of foreign living.

“He lived next door and used to have my family over each year for a big Chinese New Year feast. I remember my fascination with his stories about life as a doctor abroad,” says William.

This fascination, however, took some years before it developed into a directional force

in William's life. It was not until 1952, after William had already served in the U.S. Navy, worked for an airline, a steamship company, and owned a furniture store, that another physician friend kindled William's interest in medicine.

“Although we had two small children, I decided to go ahead and enter medical school,” he says. William earned his medical degree from the University of Nebraska in 1961—having

worked full time throughout his entire degree program.

While he was in private practice in Kansas, Aramco contacted him about taking a job in Saudi Arabia, but because he didn't want to leave his high school-aged children behind, he declined. In 1970, he moved his family to Arizona. It was there, in 1974, that a patient of his, who had accepted a job with Aramco, came in for a pre-employment physical.

"This got me thinking about Aramco again," explains William. Spurred on by his boyhood attraction to foreign climes, he contacted Aramco Services Company in Houston about possible job openings with Aramco. Within a matter of weeks, William had closed his private practice and assumed his position as a general practitioner with Clinic B in Dhahran.

Two years later, William was promoted to senior physician,

Clinic B, and in November 1979, was named chief of the newly created Emergency Medical Services Division.

"My experience as chief of EMS was the high point of my medical career," says William, who transformed the Health Center's former emergency room, then staffed by general practitioners, into an advanced emergency center supported 24 hours a day by five board-certified emergency physicians and six highly trained emergency physicians. An astounding 50,000 patients are treated yearly in the emergency center.

Like her husband, Pat Steen has led a busy life during her years in Saudi Arabia, working for Aramco all but six months of the nine years they have been in the Kingdom.

The Steens looked forward to their trip back to the States—via Dubai, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China and Japan—and to

life in their retirement home, now under construction, in the foothills of Tucson, AZ. The Steens will leave behind daughter Vicki Hooper, her husband Layton, a geologist with the Exploration Department, and their two sons, Ethan 11, and Seth, 5; as well as son Bob, a database analyst with Computer Operations and Support, his wife Dianne and their two daughters, Erin, 4, and Hillary, 1.

Fortunately, daughter Debra Crane, a customer services manager with People's Express Airline, and her husband Steve (son of annuitants Shirley and Charles Crane), who works in the Global Engineering Division of Chase Manhattan Bank, live in New Providence, NJ. Their son Dick, a reading specialist and fourth grade teacher, will be only minutes away in Tucson.

The Steens' temporary contact address: c/o Dick Steen, 834 East 8th Street, Tucson, AZ 85719.

Frank and Erica Gates

Some people complain about the trials of international travel these days, but not Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Gates. He remembers his arrival in Dhahran in February 1946, "after a three-day flight from San Francisco, with eight stopovers along the way." Then Frank and others were met by the welcome wagon—"Sixteen of us stood in the back of a stake-body truck for the three-and-a-half-hour ride to Ras Tanura." Having braved all that, the 21-year-old adventurer decided he'd "stick around."

It seems that Frank was born to wander. When he was 17 months



old, his family moved from Portland, OR, to Burnaby, B.C., where Frank grew up and graduated from Burnaby South High School in 1942. He joined the Canadian Merchant Navy as a second engineer and a year and a half later, his itchy feet took him to Richmond, CA, to work as a refinery operator in Socal's thermo-catalytic cracking unit. However, Frank had his sights set on a more exotic locale, and his second stay in the U.S., like his first, lasted only 17 months. On February 17, 1946, he joined Aramco, and began his 38-year career in Saudi Arabia—the longest of any dollar payroll employee.

Frank recalls with fondness those early days in Ras Tanura. The only ID an employee needed was his laundry number. Frank's was 2509, and it has served as his employee number ever since.

In 1948, after two and a half years as head distillation operator at the refinery, Frank was ready for his first "long vacation," as it was then called. On a flight from London to Montreal, he met a young Swiss woman named Erica Marie Wilcox. One year and countless letters later, she became Mrs. Gates and arrived in Saudi

Arabia in October 1949.

Erica's friends in Switzerland were sure she would be too homesick in Saudi Arabia, but, said Erica firmly, "I'm pretty stubborn, so I decided I'd show them." Homesickness was quickly dispelled by adventures exploring the Eastern Province, always taking along "enough water and fruit in case we got stuck somewhere. It was lucky to meet one other car between Ras Tanura and Dhahran."

Frank was busy with a succession of transfers and promotions within producing and the refinery. He was the shift foreman in the Distillate Reforming Unit from 1951 to 1953. Then he became a training adviser in Oil Operations, an "enjoyable job with Saudi trainees who were very anxious to learn about the new industry," he says.

In 1957, Frank began a series of assignments as foreman of various refinery units, and in 1972 he became producing adviser, putting his many years of experience to work during the company's greatest growth period. Frank and Erica moved to Dhahran in 1975, and since 1980, he has served as senior operations adviser, mainly for the Tanajib

30-year long-range plan.

As he says, "It's the biggest project I've been involved with. I want to return in the year 2011 to see how closely the plan has been followed."

Over the years, Erica also has held a variety of jobs, including a 10-year stint as a receptionist at the Ras Tanura Health Center. Since 1976, Erica's has been one of the helpful voices at directory assistance in the Dhahran Communications Operations Department.

After so many years, Erica is sure she will miss Saudi Arabia very much, and adds that, for her, moving to Texas will mean getting used to another strange country. It will also mean leaving 25-year-old son Glenn behind. As a structural engineering graduate of Rice University, he has been working in Dubai for the past two years. Between visits from Glenn and their many friends, and travels through the U.S. and Canada, Erica and Frank look forward to a leisurely life in their new home. Just as long as Frank doesn't receive any interesting job offers in the next 17 months, their address will be 5403 Marsh Creek Drive, Austin, TX 78759.

John W. Wheeler

His departure from Dhahran on February 15 signaled the completion of another chapter in John W. Wheeler's lifetime career in the oil industry.

A native of Fairfield, TX, John graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in

Geological Engineering in 1953. For the next seven years, John worked with an independent oil operator in Longview, TX, and from 1960 to 1966 he was involved in oil and gas well drilling, also in Longview.

His overseas experience began with a seven-year assignment with Mobil in Tripoli, Libya. In

1974, he joined Aramco and worked as an equipment engineer in the Drilling Department in Abqaiq for three years. He was then promoted to superintendent of Abqaiq's Drilling and Workover Toolhouse. Following an absence on family medical leave in

Houston last year, John has been working as a petroleum engineering consultant in the Drilling and Workover Engineering Department in Dhahran.

When he arrived in Saudi Arabia in 1974, John was accompanied by his wife, the late Dolores Wheeler. Their two sons, Stan and Keith, were holiday

visitors in Abqaiq. Stan, 31, is a Texas A&M graduate and works in Odessa, TX, where he lives with his wife, Robbin Cain, who grew up in the Aramco communities, and their son, Christopher. Keith, 27, is also an A&M graduate and is enrolled in a graduate program at North Texas State University in Denton.

John's plans for retirement include two of his favorite pastimes—jogging and skiing. In fact, he plans to run in the Fort Worth Marathon with his sons. His retirement address is: 721 Robindale Lane, Fairfield, TX 75840, tel. (214) 389-2265.

(Photo not available)

Billy and Wanda Griffice

It was the fulfillment of a longtime dream for Billy and Wanda Griffice when they departed Ras Tanura March 1 for the mountains of Ruidosa, NM, where they will immediately begin construction of their retirement home.

The custom blueprints for the one-story, three-bedroom home represent four years of meticulous design effort by Wanda, who, after studying hundreds of house plans, teamed up with a draftsman to produce her own very personal house design. It now remains for Billy to build it, with the help of his building contractor son-in-law Tim Smith.

At least wiring the house should come easily to Billy; prior to joining Aramco in July 1967, he was an electrician with South Western Public Service in Lubbock, TX. Happily, his electrical skills have not fallen into disuse during his tenure with Aramco. During the first nine years of his 16-year Aramco career, he was supervising electrician for Mechanical Services' Refinery Maintenance and Ras Tanura Terminal divisions. A promotion to foreman of the Ju'aymah Power Plant followed in 1976. In 1980,



Billy became the foreman of Northern Area Power Distribution Department's Power Services Unit, the position from which he has retired.

Since 1972, Wanda has also worked; first as a secretary for Engineering Inspection, and since 1977 as a secretary for

Communications.

Over the years, both Billy and Wanda have assumed various leadership roles in the Ras Tanura community. Billy was social chairman of the Surfside Golf Club from 1971-76 and Wanda was president of the Ras Tanura Women's Group from 1969-70, and secretary of the Bowling Association in 1970. During son Bruce's school years, Billy was actively involved in Little League baseball. Wanda has been a regular Saturday-evening bridge player.

It will be a straight shot home

for the well traveled Griffices who, besides being anxious to begin construction of their new home, are also eager for the chance to get better acquainted with their two granddaughters: Amy Michelle Smith, 5, and Erin Elizabeth Griffice, 4.

All three Griffice children reside in Texas, "within a 300-mile radius of Ruidosa," says Billy, which will make family get-togethers relatively easy. Eldest daughter Cheryl resides in Seymour; Marla Kay in Midland, where she is a project assistant for Delta Oil; and Bruce in Lubbock,

where he is studying computer technology at South Plains College. Bruce is married to Najmah School eighth-grade sweetheart Lisa Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jones of Ras Tanura.

Billy and Wanda extend a hearty welcome to their many Aramco friends to visit them in Ruidoso . . . particularly if they can read blueprints and are handy with a hammer. Contact address: c/o H. E. Hughes, 5038 27th Street, Lubbock, TX 79407.

Dick and Maureen Carter

"I've always loved my work. That's what's made my life at Aramco so interesting," says Alfred "Dick" Carter who, with wife Maureen, departed for retirement in Bangalore, India, after more than 33 years spent helping to expand and maintain Aramco's communications facilities.

Dick joined the Communications Organization—from which he retired as computer systems technical specialist in April—in the fall of 1950. He was first assigned to Abqaiq to maintain and repair electronic equipment, a job at which he proved himself so adroit that when HM King Sa'ud visited al-Hasa in 1953, Dick was among those chosen to help set up the public address and lighting systems and to maintain them throughout the King's visit.

"It's a memory I'll certainly take with me," says Dick. He recounted other vivid memories of his work in the late 1950s and 1960s when, promoted to elec-



tronic technician, he traversed sabkha, sand and sea to extend the Very High Frequency (VHF) communications system to offshore GOSPs and out-of-the-way drilling sites.

"It was a period of growth then, too, and of course we were trying to bring everyone into the communications system," says Dick, who is proud of being part of the team that installed, tested and maintained both the VHF and Ultra High Frequency networks in all districts.

In 1973, Dick was promoted to senior electronics technician for Communications television and FM music broadcasting, where he maintained the broadcasting equipment, right up to the time when Aramco converted to the PAL system. In 1980, Dick took on an assignment as computer systems technical specialist, which essentially meant troubleshooter for any computer

transmission problems. And, more recently, Dick was the one who answered "118" to take care of customer communication problems.

Busy as Dick's work life has been, however, it was always balanced by an equally busy home life. The parents of seven children, Dick and Maureen have spent most of their leisure time with the family—something they hope to continue to do in retirement in Bangalore, where Dick's first project will be to enlarge the Carter house to accommodate visits from a family that now includes three daughters, four sons, two sons-in-law and four grandchildren residing all over the world.

Eldest daughter Mary lives with her husband Rodger Theodore and their son Blair in Melbourne, Australia. Daughter Corrairie lives in London with husband Walter Meyer and children, Karl, 4, Kurt,

3, and Kandice, 1. Closer to home will be the two elder sons, Larry, a computer programmer, and Noel, an automobile mechanic, both working in Bangalore. Son Jervin recently passed his CAA examination and is continuing his studies in aeronautical engineering in Florida. Daughter Helena is in Florida completing her second year of studies toward a B.A. in Education. And youngest son Benjamin is completing his "A" levels in biology in the U.K. and will begin studies in microbiology in Florida this fall.

"I hope we'll be able to visit them and I know they'll visit us," says Dick, who, along with Maureen, says he hopes old Aramco friends will call on the Carters at their home in the "Garden City of India." Their contact address is: 12 Strandage Road, Fraser Town, Bangalore 560 005, India.

"Swede" and Marion Slettengren

It seems that Fritz—"everyone calls me 'Swede'"—and Marion Slettengren are destined to follow the sun. On April 30, they left the sunshine of Dhahran, their home for more than 18 years, and headed for Sweden, the famous land of the midnight sun.

They were looking forward to an extended visit on the Swedish island of Oland to renew old friendships and kinships, but the Slettengrens admitted to a certain nostalgia about leaving Dhahran.

Swede, a Brooklyn native of Swedish parentage, came to Dhahran in January 1966 and soon settled into work as a construction engineer in the Dhahran



Construction Department. His degree in Civil Engineering and several years' experience with New York firms served him well in an Aramco career that in the 1970s included such assignments as construction engineer for the original Marjan 1 and Zuluf 1 gas-oil separation plants (GOSPs), the onshore Qatif GOSP 3, Khurais GOSPs 1, 2 and 3, and a pipeline from Khurais to 'Ain Dar.

In 1977, Swede moved to the newly formed Project Management Department and continued work on offshore platforms and GOSPs at various sites. A promotion to senior project engineer in 1981, coupled with a transfer to Northern Area Projects, Offshore Pipelines and Platforms Department, put Swede in charge of commissioning the completion work on new facilities, the position from which he retires.

Swede considers his more memorable project to be the installation and linking of the first

single buoy mooring (SBM) to the storage tanker *F. A. Davies*. The SBMs are now regularly used as floating filling stations to top off oil tankers' loads.

The rest of the Slettengren family also kept busy during their years in Saudi Arabia. Marion worked as a commercial artist in New York before coming to Saudi Arabia, but decided to "put that aside" and tackled the diverse occupations of mother, housewife and full-time physician's aide at Clinic C, a position she held for nine years. She also worked in the Aviation Department for two years, and since 1979, Marion had her hands full answering one of Dhahran's busiest phones—the Communications Operations customer services line.

Lisa, the eldest Slettengren child, spent much of her recreation time here at the Hobby Farm, where her father served as second vice-president for nine years. Lisa

is now a registered dietician at Cedars of Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, where she lives with her husband Frank Tyrer. Sven Slettengren graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in Electrical Engineering and lives in Solana Beach, CA, with his wife, Brooke Lafrenz, who also grew up in Dhahran, and their son, Nicholas Bjorn, now three months old. Ingrid Slettengren will graduate from San Diego State University this June with a degree in dietetics and nutrition.

Swede and Marion's future plans include some renovation work on their garden guest house—part of their historically protected house and property next to Marion's grandmother's house on Oland. They welcome news from all their Aramco friends at Stenasa, Morbylanga 38062, Oland, Sweden.

Dr. Arthur Bobb Jr.

Though most everyone is gifted with 20-20 hindsight, few are blessed with perfect vision otherwise. No one understands this better than Dr. Arthur Bobb Jr., senior ophthalmologist at the Dhahran Health Center, who for the past 20 years has been treating the eye problems of Aramcons and Eastern Province residents. He retired March 1, leaving behind a full-fledged ophthalmology service and a body of distinguished research on eye diseases.

Arthur got his pre-med degree from Princeton University, his M.D. from Temple University,



Dr. Arthur Bobb, Jr. and son Fred.

and was in private practice in Vancouver, WA, when Dr. Sam Bell Jr. of Harvard School of Public Health contacted him about taking an ophthalmology position with Aramco. The position, Bell explained, involved research toward development of a vaccine to prevent trachoma, a chronic inflammatory disease of the eye, then very common in the Middle East and Africa.

"It's funny, I remember I was just complaining about the cold and rainy weather in Washington State when all of a sudden I got this offer to come to Saudi Arabia to participate in the study. The

professional challenge was the real drawing point, of course, but I must admit the thought of sunny skies, warm sands and palm trees made the opportunity just that much more tempting," Arthur says.

Arthur arrived in the Kingdom November 4, 1963, and immediately began field work to obtain disease cultures from which the trachoma vaccine could be developed. As a result of his efforts, Harvard was able to produce a vaccine which proved to be effective in controlling the disease. In addition, a great deal was learned about transmission and progress of trachoma, particularly among children. Arthur's efforts did not end with field study research, however. He has published 16 papers on eye diseases known in the region and singlehandedly started up what is now Aramco's ophthalmology

clinic. He also instituted the first visual screening program for Aramco schoolchildren.

Consequently, free time for Arthur has always been somewhat of a luxury. But over the years he has managed to enjoy the exotic climate which so attracted him by sailing his Sunfish at Half Moon Bay. He is also an avid photographer and reader as well as a longtime member of the Dhahran Outing Group, the Library Committee and the Genealogy Society.

In keeping with his taste for travel and the exotic, Arthur has chosen San Jose, Costa Rica, as an initial retirement spot. He plans on getting there in a predictably exotic manner as well, by Norwegian freighter out of Dammam Port. Arthur says he expects the voyage to take two months, giving him the opportunity to explore Karachi, Colombo,

Malaysia, Singapore, Manila, Hong Kong, Yokohama, Hawaii and San Francisco along the way. Once in San Jose, Arthur intends to do consulting work for the International Eye Foundation.

When he departed Dhahran, he left behind son Fred, 25, a staff engineer with SCECO Power Systems Engineering. Unfortunately, retirement will not bring him much closer to Andrew, 24, a first-year law student at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, or Alan, 23, a business administration senior at Albright College in Reading, PA. But all three sons will have a choice vacation spot open to them with Dad in San Jose.

Arthur's temporary contact address will be: c/o Donald K. Bobb, P.O. Box 8581, Reading, PA 19603.

"Stan" and Evelyn Stanaland

Irving D. "Stan" and Evelyn Stanaland departed Dhahran on March 18 for retirement in their hometown in east Texas just four days before their 44th wedding anniversary and 35 years after first arriving in Saudi Arabia.

Stan was interviewed and hired by the late Max Steineke in Houston in October 1948, arriving in Dhahran the following December. His first assignment was in Exploration as a surveyor. Six months later he transferred to Ras Tanura as the chief surveyor for the survey, layout and construction of portions of the Ras Tanura Refinery and Najmah residential areas. In May 1950 he



transferred to Engineering Inspection where he has spent most of his years with Aramco, holding various supervisory positions in Abqaiq, Dhahran and Ras Tanura, as well as ASC Houston. His Aramco service was broken in 1957 when he transferred to Esso in Aruba, Netherlands Antilles; the Stanalands returned to Aramco in July 1963.

Both Stan and Evelyn attended Lufkin High School in Texas where Stan played four years of football and was nominated All-State center in 1937. He was planning to continue his football career at Texas A&M, but a serious leg injury ended his foot-

ball career. Regardless, he enrolled in Texas A&M and studied civil engineering.

Over the years, Stan has been an avid bowler and golfer, and while with Esso, earned his pilot's license and served as vice-president of the Aruba Flying Club.

Both Stan and Evelyn have a hole-in-one to their credit on the old Rolling Hills Golf Course. In years past, Evelyn was organist and pianist for various groups in Ras Tanura and Abqaiq. No exotic travel is planned for the journey back to the Crown Colony Country Club complex in Lufkin, TX, in the heart of the Piney Woods,

where they have a townhouse and will watch over the building of their new home.

Two generations of their family will be left in Dhahran: son Scott of Employee Relations and his wife Audrey and the two Stanaland grandsons, David, a junior at San Marcos Academy, and Eric, a seventh grader at Dhahran Junior High School; and son Brock, a true Aramcon—having been born in Dhahran in 1951—and his wife Linda, both marine biologists in the Process Department.

The Stanalands' contact address for the present will be: P.O. Box 734, Lufkin, TX 75901.

Hazel D. Ball

When Hazel D. Ball, Aramco Schools library specialist, talks about her retirement, she insists that she is not really "retiring" at all. Rather, she is "going home"—back to the place she left more than 19 years ago, when she journeyed to Saudi Arabia to become the Aramco Schools' first fully qualified librarian.

Her credentials are indeed impressive—an M.A. in Education, a Master of Library Science degree, post-graduate work in European Libraries and Literature, experience teaching children's and young people's literature and developmental reading at Odessa College, TX, and the accolade, Outstanding Librarian for the State of Texas, accorded her in 1963.

With such a background, it's hardly surprising that most of her years with Aramco since her ar-



rival in 1965 have been devoted to working with or for the libraries. For many years, she offered her help to the Headquarters Library and to the Dhahran Recreation Library. And her expertise has had a marked

influence on all of the Aramco Schools libraries. Today, thanks largely to her efforts, all Aramco Schools libraries—the number has now grown to eight—boast a

carefully chosen selection of fiction, nonfiction, magazines, newspapers, paperbacks, reference and professional collections.

Since 1973, Hazel has served as Aramco Schools library specialist. In this position, she established an Aramco Schools Library Services office, with a staff to assist teachers and administrators with materials selections, and has also established procedures for handling all library materials for school administrative offices and library media centers. Her responsibilities have further included providing materials for the annual Aramco Schools Book Week and the semiannual Paperback Book Fairs, and preparing brochures for such activities as kindergarten registration, library orientation and library skills education. She has also prepared the procedural manuals for

librarians and library aides.

In 1977, at the request of the school administrators, Hazel prepared and presented a series of reports to the Aramco School Board as an informational aid for their initial consideration of American Library Association (ALA) Standards as guidelines for library materials and staff. Consequently, all school facilities are now staffed by at least one certified librarian, and ALA standards regarding the range and quality of books have been adopted.

Hazel has always been enthusiastic about her work. "I am a librarian," she says, "and librarianship has always been my career and my hobby." She has also enjoyed the support she received from school administrators and her colleagues. She's received recognition along the way. In 1971, Hazel was

selected to be included in the *Dictionary of International Biography*. And in 1979 she was invited to organize and to chair the Near East South Asia Conference Session for Librarians and Media Personnel, a chairmanship she has filled each year since.

The future looks bright too. Upon her return to Austin on April 19, Hazel plans to work as a volunteer for either a public library in the area, or for a library affiliated with one of the many cultural institutions in Austin. She also plans to pursue her other great love—antiques, by participating in the family antique business. But, though life in Austin promises to be busy, there will always be time to see old friends at her home at 1210 Windsor Road, #213, Austin, TX 78703.

Glenn and Reta Roberson

Glenn and Reta Roberson, who call themselves a "couple of oil field brats," returned to their native Texas at the end of March, ending a 35-year career in the oil business.

Both their fathers worked in Texas oil fields, and it seemed natural for Glenn to do the same after graduating in 1949 from Houston's Rice University with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. After working for a few years as a corrosion control specialist, Glenn joined Standard Oil of California in 1955 and was involved in corrosion control for Socal until he transferred to Aramco in 1975.

In fact, Glenn's first association with Aramco came in 1956,



when, as a Socal engineer, he helped design Aramco's water-injection system.

Since 1975, Glenn has worked as a corrosion-control consultant in Aramco's Petroleum Engineer-

ing and Process Departments, and he has continued his association with the water-injection program and related projects.

In his spare time, Glenn has en-

joyed tinkering with the family car and helping Reta organize her voluminous collections of plants and artwork. Reta's *objets d'art* include handcrafted screens, brass and copper goods and other curios. An active golfer during her years with Aramco, Reta was also a founding member of the Dhahran International Genealogy Society, through which she learned about her ancestors and Glenn's ancestors as well.

The Roberson's son Kyle is now finishing his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and lives in Houston with his wife Kaye and their two sons, Stellan, 5, and Brandon, 2. Daughter Karla, of Sugar Land, TX, is married to Mike Rodriguez, and they have two sons, Sammy, 7, and Alex, 4. Daughter Jennifer is studying electronic music and recording processes in Burbank, CA.

Once they have established a

permanent retirement home "somewhere on the southeast coast of Texas or the northwest coast of Mexico," Glenn and Reta plan to fish, golf and relax, which, for Glenn, will include building a replica of a classic MG sports car from a kit. In the meantime, their contact address is 7119 La Entrada, Houston, TX 77083.

Gordon and Iris Morris

Gordon Morris hung up his Northern Area Projects safety hat on March 1 and headed home to supervise the construction of a more personal undertaking—the Morris retirement home in Huntsville, TX.

Building their new home will be Gordon and Iris' most time-consuming project as they begin their retirement after 33 years in the oil business.

Following his U.S. Navy experience throughout the South Pacific from 1944 to 1948, Gordon studied for a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at Louisiana State University and graduated in 1951. As a Chevron Oil Company—California Company (Calco) employee from 1951 to 1971, Gordon continued his pattern of work and travel, moving around the U.S. and working his way up to division engineer. In 1971, he transferred to American Overseas Petroleum in Tripoli, Libya, for three years, working on the design and construction of oil and gas producing and processing facilities. Dur-



ing the past 10 years with Northern Area Projects (when he arrived it was called Producing Refinery Utilities), Gordon has been involved in the building of the industrial plant at Tanajib and the design and construction of offshore structures for the Marjan

and Zuluf fields.

Designing seems to be a family trait, as Iris Morris has long been known for her artistic pastime of picture-framing, and it was she who designed the layout

of their new Huntsville home. Iris' numerous framed prints and paintings will soon be displayed there, along with a new and growing collection of subjects—

wildflowers of America.

Gordon and Iris will be welcomed home by their son, Lee, a petroleum technician now engaged in offshore work near

New Orleans.

The Morrises' contact address is: Elkins Lake Station, Box 83, Huntsville, TX 77340.

William and Rose Harris

Aramco Aircraft captain William Harris took the unwonted position of passenger when he and wife Rose departed Dhahran International Airport for retirement in Scottsdale, AZ, in April. But passenger or otherwise, being airborne is a natural state for William, who has spent the last 40 years of his life, including the last 10 with Aramco, at the controls of a plane.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, William earned a B.A. from George Pepperdine College in California. He then returned to service with the U.S. Air Force, flying planes in Korea and elsewhere for the next 18 years. In 1971, William traded in his military uniform for civilian duds and went to work for Airworks in al-Khobar training Saudi Air Force pilots to fly fighter jet aircraft. At the end of his two-year contract, William, who found life in the Kingdom enjoyable, signed on with Aramco as a first officer with the Aviation Department.

"Most of my flying in the early days involved running provisions to the Rub' al-Khali," says William. "We only had eight planes then and we used to fly an average of 100 hours a month. We now have 20 planes and our schedules as pilots are a little less rigorous, though the planes are a



lot more sophisticated." William was promoted to captain in 1975 and assigned to fly the 737.

Rose Harris kept pace with an equally demanding schedule during her years in Saudi Arabia, working first as an ITC instructor and most recently as a purchase order specialist in Materials Supply. She is perhaps best known, however, for her prowess at playing bridge, an avocation to which Rose has regularly devoted two nights a week over the last decade. She is also an accomplished artist in oils and watercolor.

A diverse hobbyist himself,

William plays golf, swims, plays the harmonica and the accordion, and when in the U.S., enjoys practicing his archery. Upon his return stateside, he plans on honing his skill as a hunter on the family's 45,000-acre ranch in New Mexico. Mastering the guitar is also a long term retirement goal.

What William seems to be looking forward to most, however, is taking his seat on the board of directors of his son Bill's new magazine, *Impulse*, sched-

uled for its first publication in October. Bill, 28, is a resident of Scottsdale, AZ, and art director of the magazine.

The Harrises made their way to their retirement home in Arizona via London where they stopped off briefly to visit friends. Once

settled, their contact address will be: 7246 East Manzanita Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85258.

Mahmood and Farida Butt

When old friends see Mahmood Butt of Central Area Community Services—who departed April 1 with his wife Farida for retirement in Pakistan—they invariably ask him if he is still lifting weights.

"I always say 'yes,' as otherwise they are disappointed," said Mahmood, whose reputation as a weight lifter and bodybuilder par excellence goes back to 1959 when he took the title of Mr. Pakistan by unanimous vote of all seven judges.

"I entered the 1957 competition and did well, and then entered the 1958 competition and placed second," says Mahmood, who could hardly believe it himself when he took the title the following year.

Mahmood was a relative newcomer to Aramco in those days, having joined the company in 1952 when he was assigned to Community Services in Dhahran. In 1959 he transferred to Accounting in Ras Tanura, returning to Dhahran in 1968 where he filled such posts as materials specialist for Power Systems and purchasing supervisor for Training. Since October of last year he has worked as a coordinator for Dhahran Recreation.

Whether in Dhahran or Ras Tanura, Mahmood has always retained his keen interest in athletics, not only weight lifting



and bodybuilding, but also boxing, soccer, cricket, badminton and field hockey. In earlier years he played field hockey for the Pakistan Navy in several international events, and also claims to have introduced the sport to the Aramco communities back in 1954. An able athlete himself, Mahmood has always been willing to pass on his expertise to

others, and has helped train a number of young men in the Aramco communities in the art of weight lifting.

Both Mahmood and his wife Farida look forward to retirement in Gujrat, where Mahmood hopes to maintain his interest in athletics by setting up a small

gymnasium, both to keep fit and to help others.

Farida, well known as a particularly clever seamstress, will

devote her time to settling the family into their new home at: Shah Faisal Gate, Mohalla Bakshu Pura, behind Darsi Adara, Gujrat

Pakistan. Their temporary contact address: c/o Dr. Masood A. Butt, Tel. 851818, 27B, New Muslim Town, Lahore.

Jack and Nadine Patterson

Having made four international moves over the last nine years, Jack Patterson regards his recent fifth with an equanimity approaching the philosophical.

"If you don't want to be a gypsy, then don't associate yourself with the construction business," says Jack, who retired as manager, Ras Tanura Refinery Projects Department. "For me it's been the best of all possible worlds."

Jack and his wife Nadine departed for retirement on April 30, bringing to a close a 32-year career in the engineering design and construction end of the oil industry.

After earning a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University in 1952, Jack went to work as a plant engineer with California Research and Development Co., an early Socal affiliate. A year later he transferred to Socal proper, where for the next 22 years he worked for the Pipeline Department. Then, in 1975, Jack got an opportunity to join Aramco as a project manager on the Ju'aymah NGL Terminal design project. Intrigued by the career challenge, he decided to take it. For the next two years Jack, his wife and three of their four children lived just



outside Haarlem in the Netherlands where design of the NGL facility—then the largest of its kind in the world—was being carried out.

"This was a marvelous period for us all," reminisces Jack. "Holland is truly the gateway to all of Europe, so the travel opportunities were tremendous. But more than this, the work was terrifically stimulating."

At the end of his two-year stint in Haarlem, Jack and his family were transferred to Ras Tanura, where, as senior project manager

with Gas Projects, he guided the construction of the terminal he had helped to design. "This is a project man's dream, to be able to design a project and then see it grow before him."

Shortly before actual completion of the NGL terminal, Jack was asked to pack up and move again—this time to Houston to

start up the Safaniya Gas Project. But he and Nadine remained stateside only one year. In 1980, they returned—minus the kids—to Dhahran, where Jack became assistant to the vice-president of Gas and Refinery Projects Management. In 1982 he was promoted to manager, Ras Tanura Refinery Projects Department, a position which, he claims, has been unusually interesting by virtue of the current refinery modernization project.

Since 1981, Nadine has worked also. In addition to her full-time position as an accommodations sales clerk with Special Order Sales, she has made time for

bridge, knitting and sewing. She has also been a member of both the Ras Tanura and Dhahran women's groups over the years.

After so much moving, the Pattersons are looking forward to re-establishing permanent residence in their Sunnyvale, CA, home. Nearby in Los Gatos will be daughter Teresa Estill, her husband Jack and their two children, Sean, 2 1/2, and Christina, 1 1/2.

"We'll finally get to bounce the grandchildren on our knees," says Jack. Equally accessible in Santa Cruz will be daughter Susan Ramirez, a purchasing agent for an electronics firm, and her husband Rick. The Patterson twins,

Michael and Mitchell, will be further away at Sam Houston State University in Texas, where Mitch is studying business and Mike is pursuing an engineering degree.

Jack hopes to resume his woodworking hobbies and get back into a weekly game of golf, two pasttimes which his demanding career has left him little time to enjoy in recent years. Both he and Nadine are looking forward to traveling widely within the U.S. as well.

The Pattersons' contact address is: 1781 Linnet Lane, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

Truman and Henrietta Evans

Henrietta and Truman Evans departed April 1 for retirement at Timber Oaks, Port Richey, FL. Evans joined Aramco in January 1980 after having worked for the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, CA, for many years. Evans' last Aramco assignment was senior project manager, Materials Inventory Control System, Materials Modernization/Purchasing and Traffic Information System, Special Project, MSO.



See you in San Diego!

Our latest bulletin from reunion chairperson Ruth McClain is that more than 400 annuitants already have made their reservations to attend the 14th Annuitants' Reunion at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego.

If you haven't sent in your reservation yet, fill out the form on pg. 20 and plan to attend!

The October 5-7 weekend promises to be an active one. Along with the traditional golf, bridge and tennis tournaments, so many other activities will be available that you'll have to pick and choose. You can take a harbor cruise, tour the city sights, see the famous San Diego Zoo, experience Sea World, shop in nearby Mexico, or just visit with your friends.

If you *do* want to take part in those activities, however, plan for it now. Ruth says the chartered harbor cruise is nearly booked, but that if enough people are interested, a second trip can be arranged. If you didn't get a reunion packet, which contains event participation forms and other important information, contact Ruth McClain or Aramco Services Company, Public Affairs Department (addresses on this page).

You'll begin the first night of the 1984 reunion with a Mexican Fiesta, complete with strolling mariachi bands and dancers—not to mention enchiladas and Margarita pie! Bring your most festive outfit.

The Saturday night banquet will be accompanied by a big band sound for listening and dancing enjoyment, along with awards presentations for tournament winners.

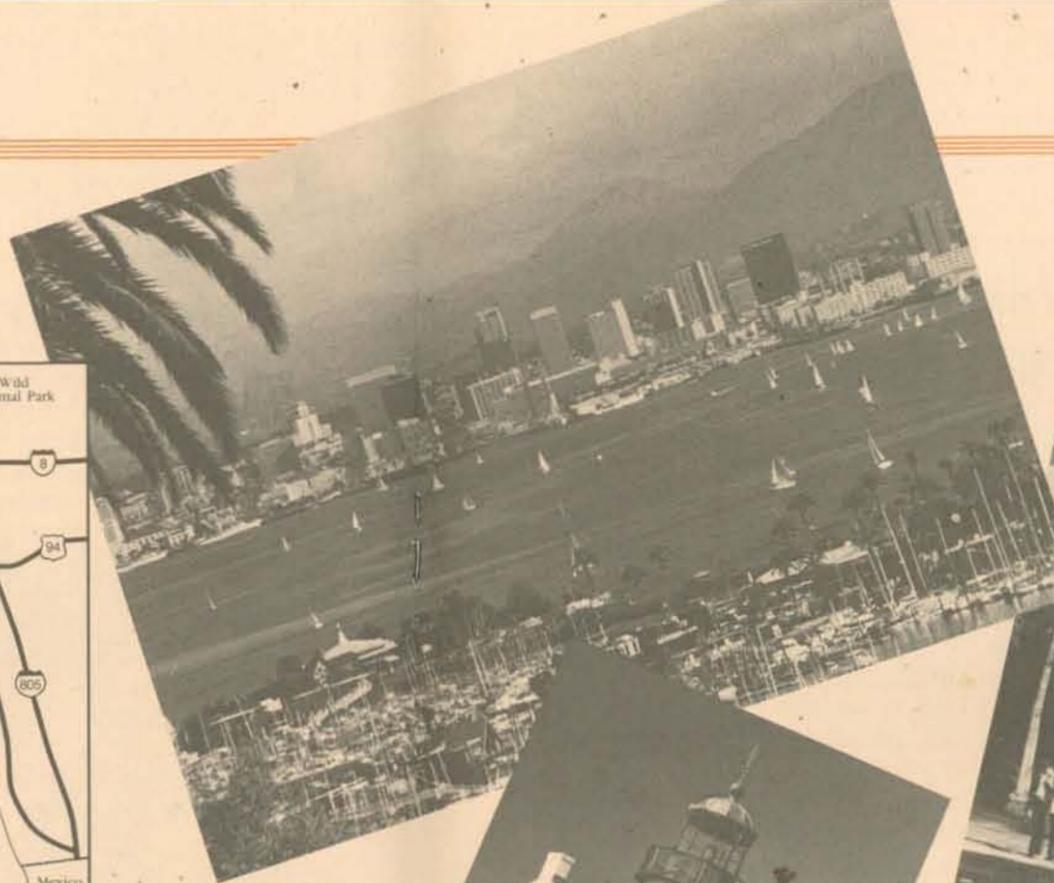
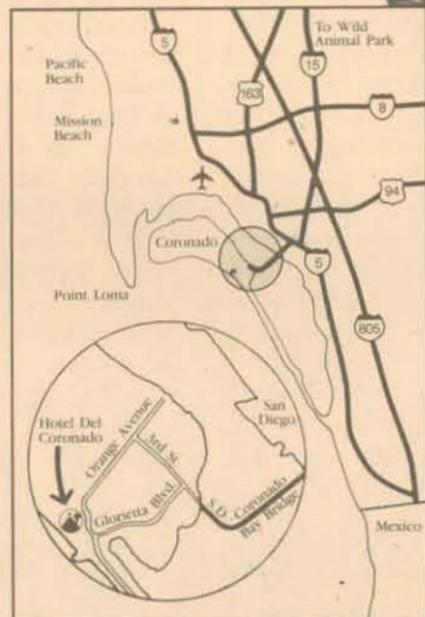
A number of second-generation Aramcons are planning to attend.

The reunion committee also has invited some of Saudi Arabia's leading businessmen to the reunion, many of whom you may know. These include Mohammad Dossary, Abdulla Fouad, Saad Al-Moajil, Suleiman Al-Olayan and others.

If you have not made your reservation yet, get it in today. For additional information, contact:

Aramco Services Company
Public Affairs Department
Attn: Patrick Flynn
1800 Augusta, Suite 300
Houston, TX 77057
(713) 750-7775

or
Mrs. Ruth McClain
P.O. Box 964
Sapulpa, OK 74067
(918) 224-6894





ROOM RESERVATION REQUEST

For: ARAMCO - 14TH ANNUITANTS' REUNION
 Dates: OCTOBER 5 - 7, 1984

Name _____ No. in Party _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

ROOM PREFERENCE: (same rate, single or double; \$15 each additional person per night)

Main Building
(rates per night)

___ Guest Room \$99
 ___ Lanai 175
 ___ Parlor Suite 275

Ocean Towers/Poolside
(no suites or apartments in Poolside)
(rates per night)

___ Guest Room \$119
 ___ 1 Bedroom Suite 275
 ___ 1 Bedroom Apartment 375
 ___ 2 Bedroom Apartment 475

ALTERNATE PREFERENCE: _____

(If first room preference is not available, the next available category will be confirmed.)

All room rates plus prevailing city occupancy tax per room per day.

- * Reservations must be received by September 5, 1984, 30 days prior to official convention date; otherwise, only available as space permits.
- * Reservations must be in writing and include one night's advance deposit, which is applicable to first or last night should you fail to arrive or depart as scheduled. In order to insure you receive the special group rate—*No reservations by telephone, please.*
- * We require 72 hours cancellation notice prior to your arrival date to obtain a refund of deposit. All refunds are subject to a 10% handling charge.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: Reservations Manager
Hotel del Coronado
1500 Orange Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118
(619) 435-6611

Cool, Beautiful 'Asir Province A World Away in Summertime

Edited from *The Arabian Sun*

The wonderland of 'Asir Province in the south-western corner of the Kingdom is now being specially promoted and "preserved for people today and for future generations," say officials in the picturesque, wildlife-filled region.

With its capital, Abha, and Abha's sister city, Khamis Mushayt, within easy reach of Dhahran by air, the beauties of the province are much closer to Eastern Province residents than the first glance at a map might show. It's only a total three-hour trip, via Riyadh. But 'Asir's cool temperatures and frequent showery afternoons seem almost a world away in the summertime.

The hallmark of the region is its natural beauty, notes Ibrahim A. al-Sayed, general manager of the 'Asir Province Tourism Development Department. The only one of its kind in the Kingdom, the department was established in 1981 specifically to promote tourism and preserve the environment of the area, both in its physical and cultural aspects.

A long weekend can provide an introduction to a number of delights in the area.

Just what is there to see? Al-Sayed is quick to reply: "The region's treasures range from oases to the green tops of mountains, from the plunging escarpment to the dense green downs of Tihama (the coastal plain), to



'Asir National Park, near Abha and Khamis Musbayt, is a favorite spot for Saudi Arab and expatriate visitors.



The ad-Dabna waterfalls, located 120 kilometers north of Abha.

the unique coral reefs of the Red Sea."

Al-Sayed enjoys a unique perspective on the region from his office in the Principality Building. Next door is an old palace, now restored and white-washed, that will serve as a regional museum. Above the city to the north-northwest lie the ruins of Turkish forts, occupied until late in the second decade of the century. And just beyond are the peaks of 'Asir, the mountain range that English explorer H. St. John Philby called the "grande dorsale, the very backbone, of Arabia."

Al-Sayed's responsibilities thus extend to the cultural heritage of his native 'Asir, where there are special summertime programs for Saudi and other visiting Arabic-speaking audiences.

The programs include evenings of speakers, comic sketches and songs. Some of the meetings, held

"in a hall holding about 2,000," may draw so many people that "you sometimes can't find a seat," says al-Sayed. Other evening programs feature poets or novelists.

The aim of all the programs is the same, to make cultural activities available and "enjoyable for all sectors—men, women and children," says al-Sayed.

The tourism director points to the recently opened 'Asir National Park as another outstanding example of the physical and cultural richness of the region. Administered by its own directorate under the Kingdom's Department of Agriculture and Water, the park's 450,000 hectares reach from 3,027-meter Jabal Sudah—Saudi Arabia's highest peak—along a thin line with several developments bordering the escarpment and sweep down to the Red Sea. The park is nearly half the size of Lebanon.

One of the 'Asir Province Tourism Development Department's jobs is to coordinate activities and projects with park officials and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, as well as other agencies. Signs of success are everywhere. Al-Sayed credits HRH Khalid al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Amir of 'Asir Province, as being the driving force behind the department's achievements to date.

"His Royal Highness Amir Khalid al-Faysal is very, very ambitious to develop the area and make the 'Asir region even more attractive than it is at the moment," says al-Sayed.

For those who relish the outdoors, the national park which al-Sayed praises is a fine place to begin a trip to the region. The various habitats of the park are

highlighted in its modern Visitors Center, perched on the edge of the escarpment just outside Abha.

With luck, a visitor might find members of a local baboon colony pressing their faces against the broad windowpanes of the center lookout; otherwise, the animals can be sought out among the rocks below, through telescopes mounted at viewing sites on the escarpment rim wall. One can watch for hours the soaring flight of raptors like the Griffin vulture, for example, the birds borne on updrafts of warm air wafting inland from the sea—until a vulture spots a potential meal far below and plummets like a rock upon its prey.

Butterflies in shades of tan and black, or white, flutter around acacia trees that dot the landscape. And fish, notes an exhibit inside the Visitors Center, thrive in wadi pools, persisting even after spring and summer floods have scoured the streambeds and valleys.

The warm, moist air from the west brings with it one of the most dramatic aspects of 'Asir for a summertime visitor from a drier

climate: sudden thundershowers. As the air rises against the escarpment and cools, rain falls, sometimes creating sweeping torrents



The view from the al-Qara'a area of 'Asir National Park, overlooking the escarpment, is among the most beautiful in the park.



Generations of 'Asir villagers have lived and died here. The newer homes set off the older, unpainted ones, which in turn front the shells of even older structures.

which plow through wadi channels. But the rain's much more peaceful result is the greenery of the highlands on the west side of the peaks, where trees, grasses and flowers—and crops—flourish.

'Asir National Park Director Mohammed Melgat, another 'Asir native, shares many sentiments with Provincial Tourism Director al-Sayed. "We're working to preserve and perpetuate for people today and for future generations a significant part of Saudi Arabia that is scenic, attractive and holds unique landscapes," he says of the park's operating mandate.

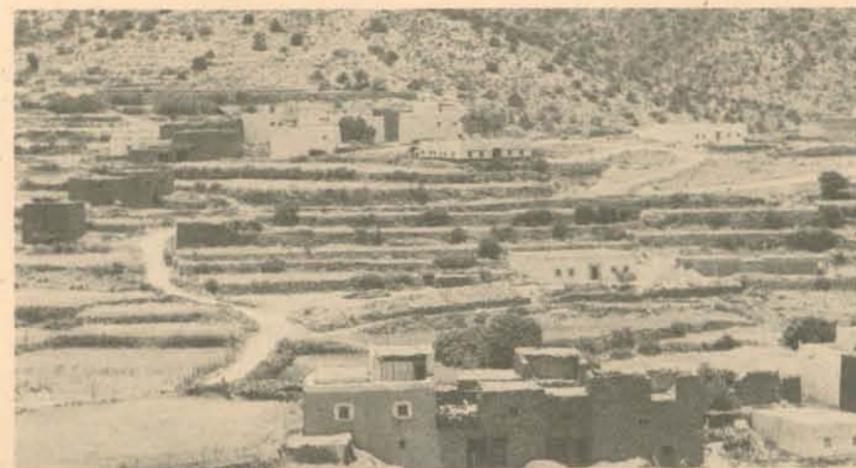
"Our job also has a cultural aspect," he adds. "For example, there are ancient, carved petroglyphs (rock pictures) on Jabal Sudah and there is the architecture of the old villages within the park."

The park is open every day of the week; picnic and camping grounds are available in all the developed areas. For entry into the Visitors Center, however, and to obtain a valuable guidebook to the park and the sites around it, a request should be sent well in advance to the Park Director, Box 764, Abha.

A key aspect of the park, built with the advice of the U.S. National Park Service which continues to help in its administration, is to create a "park ethic," says Melgat. That involves education projects.

Among recent activities was a tree-planting week involving different groups of local students every day, in line with a cross-Kingdom conservation program. A total of 6,500 trees was planted in the park.

"We worked and got our message across," notes Melgat, who



Ages-old terraced fields still provide the agricultural staples of 'Asir. These fields, north of Abha, are ripe for harvest.

led the activity. "Now when those students come to the park with their families they can understand the importance of conservation. They don't leave trash on the ground; they don't destroy what's been built."

Weekend visitors to the Abha-Khamis Mushayt area will no doubt discover they've barely begun to look around when it's time to depart.

For those with the time and energy, though, two more sites in close range of the cities would be well worth a visit; the ruins of a Turkish fort at Sha'ar Pass some 25 kilometers north of Abha and just left off the Abha-Tayif highway, and the ad-Dahna waterfalls just left off the same highway, 120 kilometers north of Abha.

Philby, who explored 'Asir in 1936-37, well sums up a newcomer's first reaction to the region in his book *Arabian Highlands*. Philby had this to say about Jabal Sudah:

"At this point, too, we reached the first junipers of the mountain, becoming before long a veritable forest above the valley level, where I saw fields of standing

wheat—and wild roses called *abal* in full bloom. It was a lovely scene after the desert of the past weeks and the wilderness of the rocky foothills. And with every upward step it became more and more beautiful."

There is little one can add to that—except a visit to 'Asir itself.



Watchtower, residence or granary? Ruins like this dot the landscape in 'Asir, contrasting sharply with much more recent construction.

Frank Holmes: Negotiator Par Excellence

Following is an article written for *The Arabian Sun* some years ago by Bill Mulligan, who retired in November 1978 after 32 years of service.

Three stiffly posed men had their photograph taken on the sands in front of a tent in 1922 at al-'Uqayr. Seated to the left, in traditional Arab robes, was the man who was to become King 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud. To the right, in a grey Homburg hat, dark suit and dapper tie, was Sir Percy Cox, British High Commis-

sioner and senior representative of the British Government in the Gulf. These two men had met to settle boundaries between Kuwait and the domains of, as he was then known, the Sultan of Najd and its Dependencies. Standing between these two seated figures was a stocky individual in dark suit and white helmet. He was Major Frank (Francis) Holmes, the legendary New Zealander who was then negotiating the oil concession he eventually obtained—and later lost—for all the mainland territory (short of

Shaybah) in which Aramco has found oil.

Not only did Major Holmes have the concession for Eastern Saudi Arabia in his pocket by 1923, but in succeeding years he ended up with concessions for the Kuwait Neutral Zone (1924) and Bahrain (1925). A few years later Holmes, representing Gulf Oil, and A.H.T. "Archie" Chisholm, representing what was to become British Petroleum, negotiated the Kuwait Oil Company Concession. Yet Holmes died shortly after the end of



World War II, worth little more than 30,000 pounds, including the resale value of a good Essex farm.

Holmes' problem was that the little company he represented, Eastern and General Syndicate, wasn't an oil company and had limited resources. It could for a long time convince neither financiers to provide the money to develop its concessions nor oil companies to buy in. When Standard Oil of California negotiated what was to become the Aramco concession in Saudi Arabia in 1933, Holmes' concession to much of the same area had lapsed because annual payments of 3,000 pounds sterling were far in arrears.

Holmes was a self-taught mining engineer who had worked in South Africa, Venezuela and Mexico when World War I came around. He immediately volunteered for active duty and served at Antwerp, Gallipoli and Flanders before being posted as a supply officer to Mesopotamia. He ended the war purchasing meat and pack animals for the British forces. In and out of Basra he heard tales of oil seepages at various places in the Gulf, and after the war he returned to

mount a negotiating campaign that must have been wonderful to behold. Many books in English about the Gulf in the period between the two World Wars contain references to this swaggering character. The words used to describe him paint a colorful portrait indeed—burly, rugged, forceful, tough, shrewd, church-going, hard-swearing, often rude, amusing, good company, patriotic, master story teller, patient and testy!

When Colonel H.R.P. Dickson (*Kuwait and Her Neighbours*) first saw Holmes, "he carried a large white umbrella lined green, wore a white helmet as issued to French troops in Africa, and over his face and helmet a green gauze veil." The Lebanese-American author Ameen Rihani (*Ibn Sa'oud of Arabia*) reported that Holmes showed up at al-'Uqayr wearing a thin *bisht* over his European clothes and a red kerchief and *'iqal* over his sun helmet, "which made his head seem colossal."

Sir Charles D. Belgrave (*Personal Column*) remarks that Holmes wore a waistcoat under his jacket, even in the summer, and carried a walking stick "with which he prodded his driver if he drove too fast or too slowly." He maintained that he paid his servants extra to put up with such abuse.

Holmes spoke no language but English, but despite his lack of

Arabic he got on very well with the people of the Gulf. He said he once tried studying the language while sailing from England to the Gulf, but he tossed his lesson books overboard in a fit of rage.

Colonel Dickson was told by Major Holmes that he was a butterfly collector. "I have been told that a wonderful black variety, known nowhere else in the world, is to be found in the Qatif Oasis," he said. "I have already called it the Black Admiral of Qatif and am out to get a specimen." The Colonel's wife overheard the remark and snorted that this was the first time she had heard an oil seepage called a butterfly. Major Holmes whooped in joy at Mrs. Dickson's sally and swore he'd get her admitted as a fellow of the royal Zoological Society as a result. He kept his promise.

Holmes became a great favorite of the ruling families of Kuwait and Bahrain and of such prominent merchant families as those of the Gosaibis and the Yateems. They spoke of him fondly as *Abu al-Naft*, "The Father of the Oil."

Aida: a Creation of Egypt's Khedive

by Caroline Stone
edited from *The Arabian Sun*

Aida is one of the world's favorite operas, and yet, how many people know that we owe its existence to the Khedive Ismail of Egypt?

The opening of the Suez Canal altered the whole position of Egypt vis-a-vis the West. Not only did the ships passing through the canal on their way to India and the Far East bring more foreigners into contact with the country, but a new kind of interest was aroused. No longer was Egypt seen entirely in terms of its archaeology and history—the technical achievement of the canal brought the real present-day country to the world's attention. Egypt became fashionable.

Ismail Pasha, the young Khedive, was partly responsible for this change of attitude. He wished Egypt, which at his accession was going through a rather static and depressed period, to move forward and become once more a lively center of culture, not only for the Middle East, but also in the eyes of Europe. Cairo was to be the Arab world's answer to Paris.

An energetic and efficient man, Ismail Pasha quickly initiated a number of projects, among them the Cairo Opera House—now a luxury hotel. This was to stand in the center of the city and to have

a seating capacity of 1,000. The theater took less than six months to complete and was inaugurated with *Rigoletto* on November 1, 1869.

The Khedive was not satisfied. He did not merely wish to provide a place where music could be performed, but to be a patron in a more active sense. He wanted an opera composed for him, for his theater, and it was to be a work which would bring alive some episode of his country's ancient history. He saw it as the first step in establishing Egypt's new musical tradition.

Naturally, for such a purpose nothing but the best was good enough. The greatest composers were to be approached—first Verdi, and then, if he refused, Wagner or Gounod. The sets and costumes, which had to reproduce the monuments and costumes of dynastic Egypt as closely as possible, were to be designed by the distinguished French archaeologist, Auguste Mariette, who had lived for many years in Egypt, and whose work was followed with great interest by the Khedive.

In 1870, Mariette received the outline of a plot—*Aida*—from the Khedive. It is not known who wrote it, but it would not be unfair to assume that it was Ismail Pasha himself. Mariette immediately wrote to a friend, the director of one of the Paris theaters and librettist of *Don Carlos*.

The friend sent the plot outline on to Verdi, whom he had been trying for a long time to tempt in-

to writing an opera, and Verdi accepted at once. An energetic correspondence then took place between Cairo and Paris, but there was little difficulty about the conditions, financial or otherwise, except that the Khedive wanted the opera ready by the end of January.

As it happened, the music was the least of the problems. Marietté, who was in Paris in mid-July to arrange the making of sets and costumes, wrote of some of his difficulties to Draneht Bey, the superintendent of the Cairo Opera:

"It is not difficult to create the usual imaginary stage Egyptians and if this were all that were needed, I would not be involved. But the task of reaching a suitable compromise between the ancient costumes found in the temples and the demands of the modern stage is a very delicate one."

But worse was to follow. In the same month, the Franco-Prussian war broke out. Paris was under siege and communications with the rest of the world were virtually impossible. There could be no question of taking out sets, costumes or artists.

Yet somehow the deadline was met, and the first performance was on December 24, 1871. The Khedive was pleased, the audience delighted, and *Aida* became one of the favorite operas of all time.

Story of Arabia's Butterflies Told in Beautiful New Book

Edited from *The Arabian Sun*

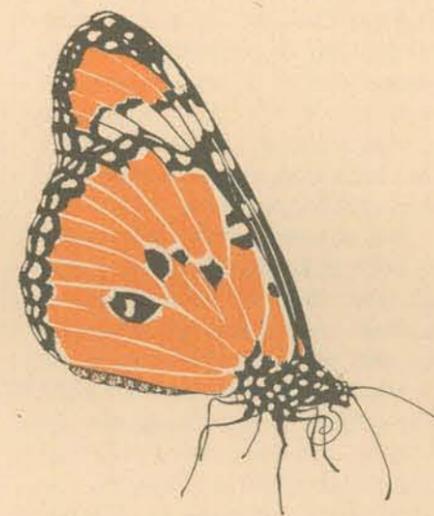
No, Arabia is not usually thought of as a land of butterflies, but a most useful and attractive new book by Danish lepidopterist and Arabian traveler Torben Larsen will convince any reader otherwise.

Butterflies of Saudi Arabia and Its Neighbours, now reaching booksellers' shelves in the Kingdom, neatly fills a gap long felt by natural history buffs in Arabia.

Identifying butterflies encountered in gardens, oases and deserts here used to mean desperate page-flipping through books on species of Europe and the few documented neighboring countries—usually ending with an unconvincing "might be that one." Now, virtually all butterflies of the Peninsula are neatly packaged and illustrated in color, making identifications easy for even the nonspecialist.

The geographical area covered is all of Saudi Arabia and its neighboring states in the Peninsula, making this reference as valuable to residents and visitors of the U.A.E., Oman and Yemen as to those in Saudi Arabia.

It is also designed as a self-contained primer on many aspects of butterfly natural history, from anatomy to life cycles and behavior. Brief directions are also given for collecting and mounting specimens, along



with tips on photography. This extra material might be a detraction to the experienced, but it is a boon to the casual naturalist, as it eliminates the need for a bigger library to get started. More scientific detail is presumably provided by a monograph by the same author in the technical series, *Fauna of Saudi Arabia*.

Perhaps the heart of this new book for many readers will be the series of 23 full-page plates with life-size color photographs of nearly all Arabian butterfly species. These are quite successfully produced, only the very last few suffering a bit from overly dark backgrounds. Both males and females of most of the species are portrayed, an important aid to the novice who may not know that, in many butterflies, the sexes look very different, leading to possible misidentifications.

The more outstanding chapters

are those on geographical distribution and migration, with the distribution tables as an appendix—all obviously a distillation of a great deal of field experience. A glance at the table suggests that North Yemen enjoys the greatest diversity of butterfly species in the area, followed closely by the 'Asir region of Saudi Arabia—more evidence of these regions' close faunal links with montane East Africa.

Larsen's book shows evidence of careful proofreading and avoids the stylistic errors so common in popular works involving scientific nomenclature. About the only aberration evident in a quick scan by this nonspecialist reviewer was the apparent substitution of the word "Arabia" for "Africa" in the distribution map caption for the Arabian Skipper (p. 95). I confess, however, that I am not a partisan of the slick-paper "coffee table" format for natural history books. I would much prefer to have had this one in handier proportions, and not many owners will want to take it to the field despite its much sturdier-than-average binding.

Conclusion? A big step above the general cut of popular natural history works on Saudi Arabia, very attractive, and above all, useful. The publisher, Stacey International, advises that the price in Saudi Arabia is SR 110—a fair equivalent of the U.K. cost of 22.

Huna-Wa-Hunak

Translated literally from Arabic, huna-wa-hunak means "here and there." In everyday usage, it's a term for items gathered from here and there; things that might have been temporarily set aside or forgotten, now regrouped; a hodgepodge.

Send your contributions to:

Huna-wa-Hunak
ASC Public Affairs
1800 Augusta Drive, Suite 300
Houston, TX 77057

The Last Word?

I see in the Spring 1984 issue of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamila* that you are still receiving letters regarding the identities of individuals in the

group picture which first appeared in your Summer/Fall 1983 issue. I wrote some time ago giving my thoughts on the missing names, but apparently my letter went to the wrong division in your department as I also included in my letter my phone number for inclusion in the Annuitants' Annual Address List.

My old friend Phil McConnell is correct regarding the location of the blanks in the list of names—i.e., the brackets should be placed around the question marks. I am surprised, though, that Phil did not recognize the man in the front row on the far right in front of Joe Howley. I'm sure that person is Harold Beckley.

I had been under the impres-

sion that the individual in the dark trousers next to Harry Flackmeier was Bill Brubaker, but I now feel that Bill Mulligan is correct in identifying him as Pete Hart, then the American Consul resident in company quarters in Dhahran.

To date everyone who has written has failed to catch what I believe is an error in naming the individual in the front row, third from the left between Floyd Meeker and Warren Johnson. He was identified as Merle Moore. I am quite sure Merle had not arrived in the field by the time that picture was taken, and I would give odds that that individual is Gordon Gemmill. Any takers?

In summary, I believe the lineup should read—front row from



left: Phil McConnell, Floyd Meeker, Gordon Gemmill, Warren Johnson, Glen Sheets and Harold Beckley. Back row from left: Dick Kerr, Andy Anderson, Bill Squires, Al Singelyn, Tom Barger, J. MacPherson, Harry Flackmeier, Pete Hart, Bill Burleigh, Joe Howley and Floyd Ohliger.

Best regards,
Wilfred Jones

My comment to the editor of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamila* is to the subject of the 'Id al-Fitr photograph in the last two issues. The young man so far unidentified, standing fourth from the right just in front of Bill Burleigh, is vice-consul, now retired ambassador Pete Hart. Shame on you, Phil McConnell! I guess you were trying to think only in terms of Aramco employees. So, Phil, there must be at least six of the thirteen still alive, since Pete is very much so—I have talked to him today, at his home in Washington.

W. A. Robinson

Like Phil McConnell, I honestly intended to help you solve the "whoosat guy" puzzle that resulted when Warren Hodges contributed his photo of the group who consumed a free lunch with the Governor in Dammam on 'Id al-Fitr in 1945, but the best of intentions do go awry sometimes.

I will finally drop the other shoe! The last man on the front row, right, is Earl Waugh, at the time the Aramco representative to Saudi Arabian Government in Ras Tanura. I know, 'cause I moved to Ras Tanura from Jiddah in the spring of 1947 and became

Earl's understudy, succeeding him when he left the field later that year.

To Warren Hodges, to "Huna-Wa-Hunak" and to all the letter writers that tried to set the record straight—thanks for reviving pleasant memories.

May our "pleasant days" long continue.

Warren Johnson

P.S. to the editor: confirming the names you printed under the group photo on pg. 25 in the Winter 1983 edition, the back row is named correctly; the front row should read, from the left: Phil McConnell, Floyd Meeker, Merle Moore, Warren Johnson, Glenn Sheets and Earl Waugh.

Regarding the men in the picture on page 25 of the Winter 1983 issue of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamila*: You have probably already been advised that the IDs for the front row are a little mixed up—starting at left is Phil McConnell, Floyd Meeker, etc. Far right is Larry Crampton, not Scott Harrison. If you don't believe it, ask Crampton; he's in the annuitants' directory and lives in Aptos, CA.

The man Mulligan identifies as Pete Hart may be so, but I'm not convinced; why don't you ask Pete himself?

I was there at the '45 'Id al-Fitr and vouch for all the others.

Fred Abbott

You are right, you did get a number of letters concerning the picture reprinted on page 24 of the Spring 1984 issue of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamila*. I was glad to see that several old friends, including Larry Barnes, also answered. After further consideration, I'm now convinced

that the man kneeling on the right end is Scott Harrison.

There is one individual you could question that could give you a positive answer. That is Scott Harrison's wife. You give her address on page 26 of the same issue in which you reprint the original picture. Her name is Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison.

How about some more guessing games on old Aramco pictures? You must have many in your files.

Yours truly,
Robert Wynne

We were just about to ask y'all for more pictures. The best collections of old Aramco photos are probably in your scrapbooks. We'd like to have a few to use in AAAJ and in the upcoming 1984 reunion special issue. If you've got them, please include names with any photos you send. But we'll accept more "mystery" pictures, too. All photos will be returned.

Editor

Aramco World Magazine

Share it with your friends

If you would like your friends and family, or perhaps a school or library, to receive a complimentary subscription to *Aramco World Magazine*, contact:

Aramco Services Company
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Or call (713) 750-7775

"Bert" Miller, Aramco Pioneer

The company has been notified that Aramco pioneer geologist Robert P. "Bert" Miller died January 14 in the United States.

Mr. Miller and the late Schuyler B. "Krug" Henry were the two geologists who traveled from Bahrain to Jubail in September 1933 to meet mining engineer Karl Twitchell and begin the exploration for oil in Saudi Arabia. Within a week of their arrival, the two men had reconnoitered about 120 kilometers of coastal desert southward past Tarut Island and the Qatif oasis on to the limestone outcroppings they had sighted from Bahrain. On September 28, they were chipping the first samples from Damman Dome, where oil in commercial quantities was discovered in 1938.

In addition to the major role he played in detailing the Damman Dome, Mr. Miller is credited with directing surface geological studies to the area, sighted during reconnaissance flights in the company's Fairchild airplane, where the red beds at the base of the Miocene made a broad indentation. These studies later led to the important discovery of the Abqaiq structure.

A graduate of the University of Alberta and the University of California, Mr. Miller began his geological career in Alaska, and also worked in Mexico and Venezuela before arriving in Bahrain in 1932, where he was sent by the Standard Oil Company of California (Socal) to observe the drilling of that company's first oil well on Bahrain Island. In addition to his geological work there, Mr. Miller studied the Arabic language and

customs in preparation for entering Saudi Arabia, where he was to spend the next three years. Following the first season of exploration, Mr. Miller was named manager of the California Arabian Standard Oil Company (Casoc), now Aramco, a post he held through 1935.

In later years, Mr. Miller worked in Italy, India and Columbia, returning to San Francisco in 1944 where he served as a senior geologist on the Socal staff.

In 1956, Mr. Miller made a brief visit to the Kingdom to see the changes that had occurred in the Eastern Province since he had left the area more than 20 years before.

John Ricca, 68, a former assistant director of the Office of Oil and Gas in the Interior Department and a retired manager of energy resources for General Motors in Detroit, died of an aneurysm April 24 at his home in Bristow, VA.

John was born in Golconda, AZ. He graduated from the

University of Northern Arizona. During World War II, he worked for a company building air fields for the Army in Africa.

In 1945, John went to work for the Arabian American Oil Company in Saudi Arabia. He also worked in Lebanon, Holland and New York City. From 1960 to 1962, he worked for the Oasis Oil Company in Libya and then moved to the Washington area to join the Interior. From 1972 to 1981, he worked for General Motors in Detroit and then returned to the Manassas area.

For the past two years, John had been associated with Georgetown University's world trade program. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Northern Arizona and its Distinguished Alumni Award in 1969.

Survivors include his wife, Marcella G. Ricca, of Bristow, two children, John and Anita, both of Houston, TX, and a brother, George, of Kingman, AZ.

The preceding obituary appeared in the Washington Post, April 30, 1984.

Loan us your photo album...

We're planning to mix "then" with "now" in the 14th Annuitants Reunion special issue, which means we need to borrow *your* pictures—snapshots of your friends, co-workers and good times with Aramco in Saudi Arabia. If you'll send us pictures, slides or negatives—preferably of people and preferably with i.d.s.—we'll return them by registered mail. Your contributions will make the issue, so thanks in advance.

Change Of Address

Mrs. Allyn A. Alcott
1521 Tamarisk Drive
St. George, UT 84770

***Lindy Aubrey**
1119 Towne Lake Drive
Longview, TX 75601

Hollis D. Baker
13121 N.W. Military Drive, #1111
San Antonio, TX 78231

***Hazel D. Ball**
1210 Windsor Road, #213
Austin, TX 78703

Arnold J. Bevis
2137 Spanish Oaks Drive
Harvey, LA 70058

***Dr. A. A. Bobb Jr.**
N-108 Twin Lakes
6531 S.E. Federal Highway
Stuart, FL 33494

James K. Brett
The Three Fountains
2212 Lester N.E., #331
Albuquerque, NM 87112

***Gaylord F. Britton**
205 Polk Avenue
Front Royal, VA 22630

Della Dunham Brooks
I Street, Madaket
Nantucket, MA 02554

Virgil E. Brown
22300 S.W. 108th Avenue
Sherwood, OR 97140

Donald C. Carter
Jefferson—617
400 Freedom Square
Seminole, FL 33542

Emerson E. Cook
c/o Fast Courier Service
P.O. Box 60917
Houston, TX 77205

**Mrs. Richard K. Curran
(Marion C.)**
33543 Hayloft Road
Lake Elsinore, CA 92330

John F. Curry
10607 E. Floral Drive
Whittier, CA 90606-1134

Mrs. George Davison
3900 Old Bullard Road, #5J
Tyler, TX 75703

Jerry M. Edwards
1447 Olive Avenue
Vista, CA 92083

Harry W. Ellis
10103 Benbrook Court
Tampa, FL 33615

Janet C. Ellis
744 International, #E-58
Houston, TX 77024

***Truman Evans**
115 Gold Pine Drive
Port Richey, FL 33568

***Yngvar Friiso**
c/o Tord Friiso
3206 Irving Street
Denver, CO 80211

Jimnee V. Fullerton
5002 Laurel Park Drive
Camarilla, CA 93010

***Benjamin F. Gates**
5403 Marsh Creek
Austin, TX 78759

***Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Goerner**
18 Stony Creek
Austin, TX 78734

Robert R. Graham
Box 921
Valley Center, CA 92082

***William E. Harris**
7246 E. Manzanita Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Daniel V. Healey
1044 E. Orange Grove, Bldg. #3
Pasadena, CA 91104-4641

Mrs. A. O. Hermodson
Box 363
Balaton, MN 56115

Francis A. Howell
152 Hillcrest Drive S.W.
Rocky Mount, VA 24151-1610

***Richard T. Jackson**
337 Brownfield Drive
Ridge, NY 11961

Lloyd E. Johns
3077-A Via Serena S.
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

(Continued on next page)

Harold C. Johnson
P.O. Box 627
Magalia, CA 95954-0627

Mrs. R. C. Kerr (Phyllis A.)
Valley View Lodge, #245
1228 Rossmoor Parkway
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Kenneth H. Kieswetter
17605 Marymont Place
San Diego, CA 92128

Lucille Killingsworth
c/o Steve Killingsworth
1902 60th Street
Lubbock, TX 79412

John W. Ladner
Finley Point Rd.
Polson, MT 59860

Mrs. Roy Lebkicher
1228 Rossmoor Parkway, #242
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Robert S. Lehman
20532 Sherman Way
Canoga Park, CA 91306

Carrol B. Lewis
P.O. Box 790
St. Francisville, LA 70775

Everett W. Livermore
4214 Mulligan Drive
Carson City, NV 89701

William Lyle
11104 Balcones Woods Circle
Austin, TX 78759

N. K. Maluf
P.O. Box 376
Farmington, NM 87401

**Mrs. Clyde Manwaring
(Marion)**
P.O. Box 6332
Hilton Head Island, SC 29938

William F. McGovern
496 Ena Road, #3510
Honolulu, HI 96815

Mark S. McKnight
3212 Willow Creek Road
Dothan, AL 36301

***Reverend Father Ronald Metz**
2101 Connecticut Ave N.W., #82
Washington, DC 20008

Joseph R. Monjello
3324 91st Street, #5M
Flushing, NY 11372-1717

***Gordon G. Morris**
Box 83 Elkins Lake Station
Huntsville, TX 77340

John W. Nixon
532 Woodberry Road
Rock Hill, SC 29723

Marion G. Otto
c/o Boston Scrod
MCCA Inc. 35883
P.O. Box 2870
Estes Park, CO 80517

***J. S. Patterson**
1781 Linnet Lane
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Donald I. Peters
2171 Alfred
Exeter, CA 93221

Albert R. Porto
2041 Lake Marshall Drive
Gibsonia, PA 15044

R. H. Putnam
R.R. 1, Box 260
Exmore, VA 23350

**Mrs. Allan E. Rau
(Bernice Hogg)**
895 Cieneguitas
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

***Glenn R. Roberson**
7119 La Entrada
Houston, TX 77083

Mrs. R. E. Ryan (Faye)
Rt. 5, Box 205
Gatesville, TX 76528

Herlin L. Sandin
3636 N. Campbell Avenue, C-15
Tucson, AZ 85719

***John D. Smith**
375 Saturn Circle
Reno, NV 89511

***Fritz C. Slettengren**
Stenasa, Morbylanga 38062
Oland, Sweden

***Irving D. Stanaland**
P.O. Box 734
Lufkin, TX 75901

***Dr. William M. Steen**
c/o Richard Steen
834 E. 8th Street
Tucson, AZ 85719

Ulysses V. Stewart
3762 Sundale Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

Mrs. Nettie Lee Stone
549 Santa Ysabel
Los Osos, CA 93402-1142

Mrs. J. R. Troy
4423 Deborah Court, #3
Chesapeake, VA 23321-4323

John L. Tucker
1335 W. 4th Street
Ontario, CA 91762

Arthur L. Vetch
3740 Casselle Avenue
Orange, CA 92669

F. S. Vidal
3111 Newcastle
Dallas, TX 75220

Mrs. William D. Walker (Helen)
1519 Laureldale Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609

Charles S. Wallace
c/o Clark
99 Spartan Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10303-1750

David L. Wilson
Rt. 2, Box 284
Oakwood, TX 75855

Thomas P. Wood
2976 Shadow Brook Lane
Westlake Village, CA 91361

Edwin J. Wright Jr.
Rt. 1, Box 1380
Arp, TX 75750

**These names did not appear in the 1983 address list.*

In Memoriam

Arnold Allen—April 25

*Survived by Mrs. Arnold Allen
418 S. Inglewood Avenue, #6, Inglewood, CA 90301*

William C. Andrews—February 28

*survived by Patricia Andrews
Rt. 2, Box 114-A, Enoree, SC 29335*

Carl Barber—February 18

*survived by Lily Barber
7177 White Oak Circle, Houston, TX 77040*

Mary Bertocci—August 31, 1983

*survived by A. P. Bertocci
2080 E. Riviera Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282*

***Clarence Booth—April 30**

Rose Anger Bright—October 1

*survived by Raymond J. Bright
543 Foxglove Lane, Barrington, IL 60010*

John W. Casey—December 11, 1983

*survived by Francis Casey
23500 Wiley Canyon Road, #125, Valencia, CA 91355*

George W. Conser—April 11

*survived by Margaret Conser
2257 Palm Terrace, Sarasota, FL 33581*

William M. Darling—April 17

*survived by Antonia-Maria Darling
245 17th Street, Oakland, CA 94612*

***G. W. Dudderar—May 18**

Florence Farmer—September 1983

*survived by R. D. Farmer (son)
N554 Vista Hereda, El Cajon, CA 92021*

In Memoriam

Merle Feltman—February 29

Joe Gallagher—December 14, 1983

*survived by Ivy Gallagher
2220 E. Katella, Orange, CA 92667*

***Starvos Georgiou—May 16**

William J. Grifall Sr.—February 17

*survived by William Grifall Jr. (son)
172 Riva Alto Canal, Long Beach, CA 98083*

Dewitt E. Hunt—April 2

*survived by Deloss Hunt (son)
Rt. 1, Box 164, Gordonsville, TN 38563*

William Kee—March 4

*survived by Jacqueline Kee
Box 320-B, Ventress, LA 70783*

Gervase S. Kennedy—February 17

*survived by Eve K. Hern (daughter)
P.O. Box 1862, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403*

R. L. Keyes—March 28

*survived by Mrs. Carol Roder (daughter)
1219-A Oxford Street, Berkeley, CA 94709*

***Jim Law—March 21**

***John D. MacLennan—May 1**

Arthur R. Manson—March 3

*survived by Hazel Thomas Manson
950 Woodland Avenue, Space 90, Ojai, CA 93023*

Dr. James R. McNiel—February 14

*survived by Dorothy McNiel
1626 N. 30th Street, Ft. Dodge, IA 50501*

(Continued on next page)

In Memoriam

Robert 'Bert' Miller—January 14

***Jocelyn 'Jo' Modena—February 14**
survived by Giorgio Modena

William L. Moss—March 30
survived by Mrs. Evelyn Honeysett (sister)
1029 W. 22nd Street, Merced, CA 95340

***John David Myers—January 20**

John V. Rafferty—January 13
survived by Helen Meier (daughter)
33867 Terra Circle, Corvallis, OR 97339

Ralph Ricketson—March 3
survived by Eleanor Ricketson
Woods Haven Farm, Rt. 1, Box 2040,
Gainesville, FL 32601

Paul J. Romanenghi—May 1
survived by Juanita Romanenghi
Normandy Park South, 1684 Lake Avenue #4,
Clearwater, FL 33516

Ingeborg Rozell—February 13
survived by Franklin R. Rozell

***Frans J. Sanders—July 3, 1983**

Raymond P. Schroder—March 25
survived by Patricia Teigen (niece)
2121 Messina Place, Monterey, CA 93940

**Employee or employee's spouse at time of death.*



Al-Ayyam Al-Jamila

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and friends.

Donna Drake, *Editor*