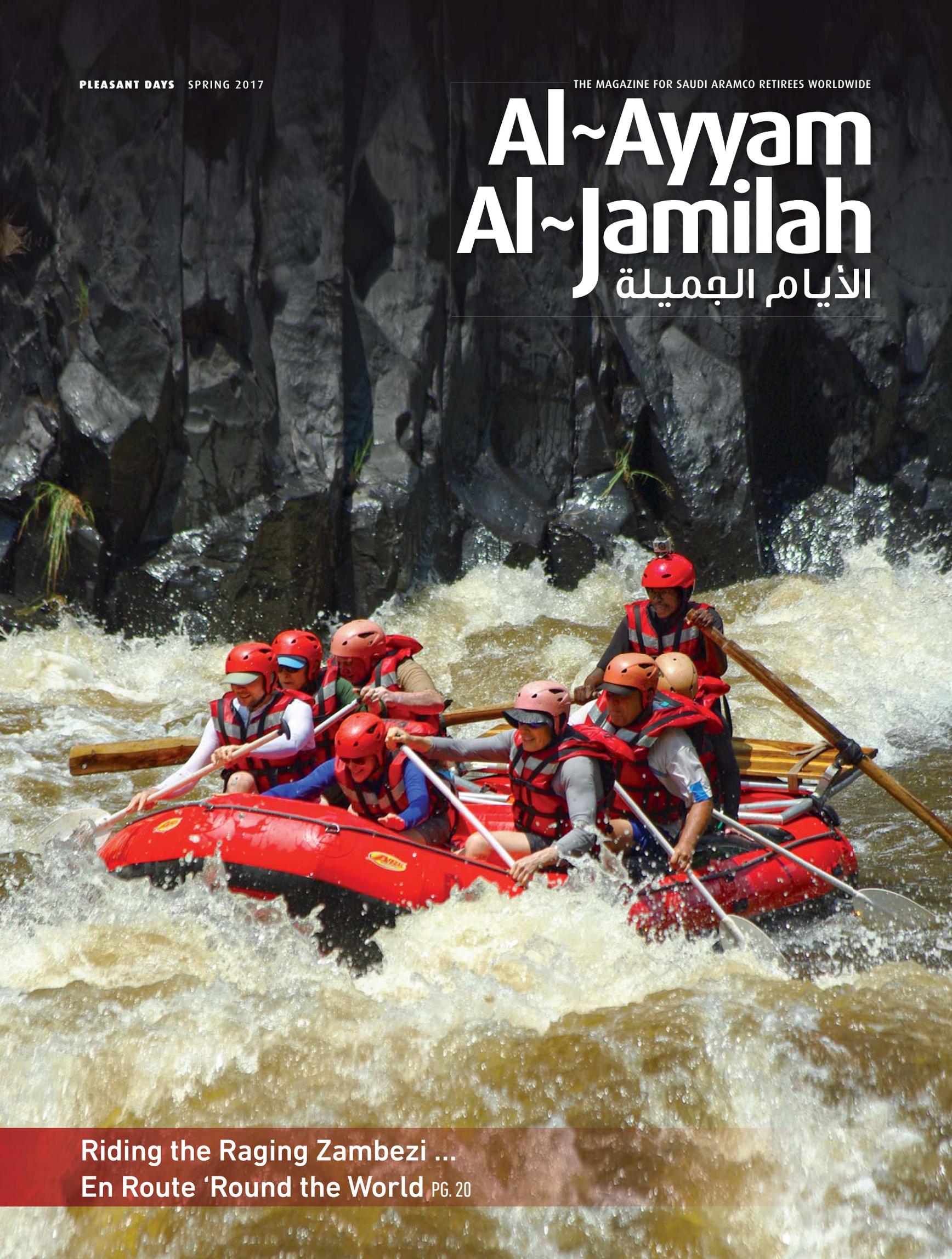


Al~Ayyam Al~Jamilah

الأيام الجميلة



Riding the Raging Zambezi ...
En Route 'Round the World PG. 20



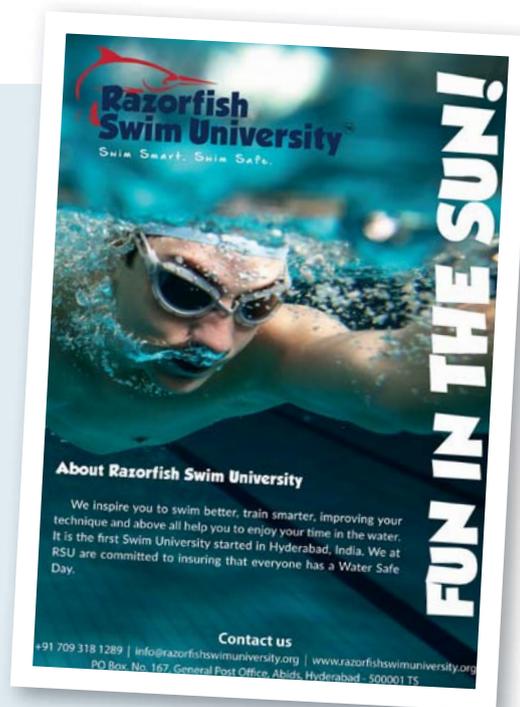
7 Reunion Revels

Reunions brought Aramcons around the world together. Geezers gathered near the Alamo; retirees reunited in Houston and Austin; and members of the Saudi Aramco Ex-Employees Assn.

had fun in Karachi. Here, "Hutch" Hutchison celebrates in Austin with his wife Barbara and Adele Tavares.

10 Brats to The Fore

Start a "swim university?" Ride in the Inaugural Parade? Win a Golden Globe? Boost Americans' understand the Muslim world, while working for two secretaries of state? That and more is all in a day's work for these Brats.



12 Story of a Bedouin Boy

Ali Al-Naimi's autobiography has proved popular in bookshops worldwide. The retired minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources writes with modesty and even self-deprecating humor about his days as a goat-herding lad, through his careers with Aramco and the government.

16 Artifacts Come Home

Photographs, paintings and artifacts donated by individuals associated with Saudi Aramco are enriching the collections of the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture in Dhahran and the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage. Here is a recent sampling.



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.

SPRING 2017. ISSN-1319-1512

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO

The Editor, Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah
Aramco Services Company
P.O. Box 2106
Houston, TX 77252-2106
arthur.clark@aramcoservices.com

PRESIDENT Basil A. Abul-Hamayel

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT Jamal K. Khudair

EDITOR Arthur Clark

DESIGN Graphic Engine Design Studio



20

Doc Engineers Global Odyssey From Saudi Base

Saudi Aramco didn't put Rich Birrer on the road, but it certainly helped him travel—to every country on the map, often with a family member or two. He's summited Mt. Everest, rafted the Zambezi and even piloted a locomotive on the Hijaz Railroad, among other adventures.

24

Recalling the 'Golden Age Of Project Management'

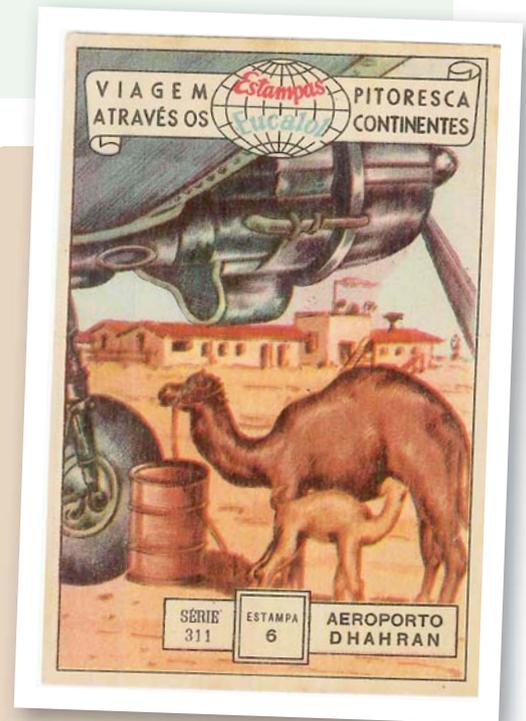
Fred Blanchard highlights the challenges and joys of Aramco's early Project Management initiatives in the '70s and '80s—from substantially boosting crude-oil production capacity to building the Master Gas System. Saudi workmate Abdullah Al-Otaibi nicknamed him the "Shaikh of Ghawar."



30

'Flying Camel' Featured In Soap Company Card Set

Aramco's "Flying Camel," acquired in 1947, flew passengers from Dhahran to New York and back for 13 years. Still fondly remembered, it was memorialized in—of all places—a set of soap cards focusing on the Arabian Peninsula, produced in 1957.



Cover: Dr. Richard Birrer's quest to visit every country on the globe rocketed the Medical Services executive director down the Zambezi River below Victoria Falls in 2012. He paddles front right, as his wife Christina (red helmet, center) holds on tight.

أرامكو السعودية
saudi aramco





Lionel von Hornlein surveyed transects in Saudi Arabia from December 1938 until August 1939, when Standard Oil of California transferred him to Karachi. Authorities at the American Consulate General in Baghdad stamped this passport photo in 1941.

Geologist Seeks Dad's History

September 27, 2016

My father, Lionel duMont von Hornlein (1911-1996), worked for the California Arabian Standard Oil Company as a civil engineer in Saudi Arabia in 1938 and 1939 [and then was transferred to India]. I have some wonderfully descriptive letters he wrote to his mother about working in the Rub' al-Khali and also mention Abu Hadriya, Ma'aqala, Abqaiq and Jafura, as well as places I haven't been able

A seismic crew works near a shothole drill deployed at Abu Hadriya in 1939, the same year Lionel von Hornlein worked there.



to find on any map such as Zebeduja, Er Rudiaf and the Zor highlands.

My father surveyed transects for Max Steineke and Tom Barger. Tom wrote a funny story in his book *Out in the Blue* about digging my father's Ford out of the sand in the middle of the night near Ma'aqala.... Dad also mentions Bert Nelson and Paul Walton, who led their field party until Paul had to return to the States for health reasons and my father took over his responsibilities.

I am writing and illustrating the story of my father's epic life, with a primary goal of inspiring my nephews and a secondary goal of honoring an amazing man whose life was astonishing in its scope of accomplishment.... Now at the age of 60 and a retired exploration geologist, I am more appreciative than ever for the legacy of adventure he instilled in me.

I have been able to reconstruct most of the chronology of Dad's travels. I am looking for any additional information about my father's specific work from Saudi Arabia.

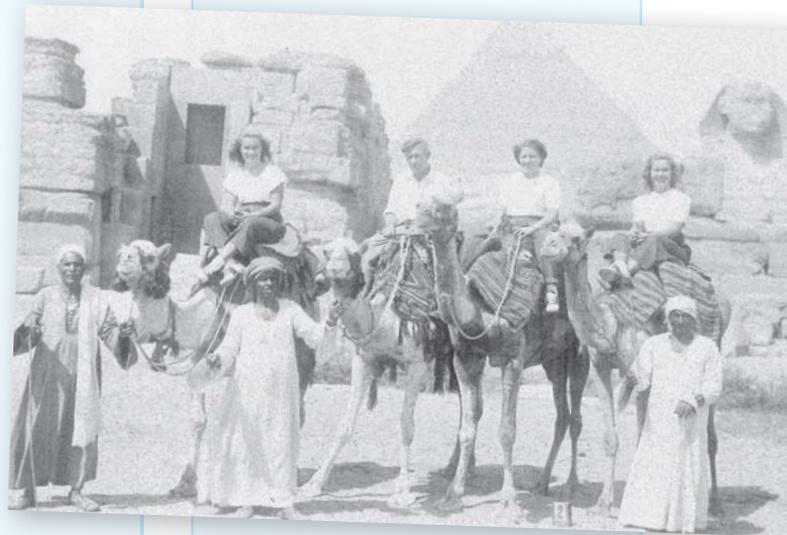
[A-Lan Reynolds](#)

A-Lan@comcast.net

NOTE: On March 28, 1939, Lionel von Hornlein wrote that he was "frantically busy" at Abu Hadriya, a wildcat-well site 100 miles northwest of Dammam Camp (later Dhahran) and was planning to "sleep two solid days" at the camp before joining Tom Barger at Ma'aqala, around 150 miles to the southwest. "Coming up from the jebel at Dammam [en route to Abu Hadriya] you pass along a great chain of sabkhahs... surrounded by great swelling drift-sand ridges," he wrote. "Camels and donkeys are thin and droopy—grazing being limited to small flats among the dunes. A hundred kilos brings you to Jubail, where the road

comes out to the coast again and a little cluster of sagging mud huts and palm-frond shanties or barastis waves in the heat between the amazingly blue sea and the solid yellow glaring sand dunes.

70th Anniversary Doubly Celebrated



December 4, 2016

We're honored by the write-up you did on our family ["Siblings Celebrate 70-Year Company Connection"] in the Fall issue. We have received some very positive responses from friends. Many, many thanks from all of us—we will treasure this issue.

[Joyce Kriesmer](#)

joyce@thekriesmers.com

The photo above shows twins Joyce and Jackie Haug (now Joyce Kriesmer and Jackie Voscamp), right and left, on a stop in Cairo with their parents, Pauline and Roy Haug, Sr., en route to Dhahran in 1946. Their brother, Roy, Jr., was already in Dhahran.

Nepal Orphans Home Story Struck Chord

December 5, 2016

I just received my copy of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah* and have already received e-mails from friends who have seen the article on my volunteer-

ing in Nepal ["Teacher Red-Faced with Appreciation"].

I would like to send a copy of the article to the director of the Nepal Orphans Home in Kathmandu. Some friends have already sent a donation.

Lou Spencer

louis.spencer@yahoo.com

Renaissance Man's Creativity Continues

January 7, 2017

Attached is a picture of a sundial called an armillary dial that I designed and donated to Lucedale. We had a dedication on Saturday—a big day since I was the grand marshal in our Christmas Parade....

I have a couple of new projects in the works. The first is a waterfall swing for our park.

The second project is to honor our City Fathers from the past by making life-size cutouts on the men and women who operated the businesses



Jim Corley, center, and his wife Nancy smile by his armillary dial, as Lucedale Mayor Doug Lee looks on.

on Main St. in the '40's and '50's. We would mount these likenesses in front of the building where they operated their business and a plaque would identify the people and business.

Jim Corley

jim.corley41@att.net

NOTE: "Lucedale's Renaissance Man," about retiree Jim Corley's pub-

lic works in his hometown in Mississippi, appeared in the Fall 2016 issue.

'Nothing Can Stop The Sand or Heat'

January 10, 2017

My college roommate was cleaning out her father's attic and in a mess of WWII letters found one mentioning "an American Oil Company" in Arabia. Her father, Irving Dillard, was editorial-page editor of *The St. Louis Post Dispatch* many years ago.

I went to the University of Wisconsin in Madison and Mary Sue Dillard was my roommate one year. We graduated in 1957.

She thought the letter was to relatives from this serviceman.

My husband Hilbert "Bert" Walter Baumann, a metallurgical engineer, went to Arabia in July 1963 and I followed in September with our children, Christine, four and Jeff, two—who graduated from Dhahran in 1974 and 1976.

I worked in the Aramco School in Abqaiq and Dhahran for 20 years as an aide and substitute teacher.

Lois Baumann

lebaumann@linkedresources.com

NOTE: The letter is dated July 22, 1946, from the Dhahran Air Base. Over a signature that looks like "Fred," it reads: "This is the worst place on earth I've ever been in. The tempera-



ture is 110 degrees in 'the shade.' The humidity is 96 percent. The sand is blowing like snow but the wind is burning hot.... The Army's airport is halfway between Cairo and Karachi, India. About two miles from the airport is an American Oil Company.... There is a swimming pool, but nothing can stop the sand or the heat."

Reminiscing in Norway

January 17, 2017

Please update my address for *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah*, which makes me reminisce the many happy years I worked for Aramco in Dhahran.

I worked in the Gas Projects Dept. under Paul R. Clark, manager, from 1973 through 1978. Hence, I joined Contracting Dept. under Manager Jack Egan and later Bob Aldag, and left Aramco in 1985 as administrator, Engineering & Construction Contracts Div.

Later I joined the Norwegian Oil Company Statoil and retired in early 2001 as vice president, Research & Development.

In February 2001, I had the honor of

The writer, Tor Hetland, center, stands next to a bundled-up Ali I. Al-Naimi in Norway in February 2001. At left is Ali H. Al-Twairqi, director general of Al-Naimi's office in Riyadh. At right is Norway's ambassador to Saudi Arabia.



Tor Hetland, 76, stays active in retirement in Norway. He skis "six to eight miles three times a week" in the wintertime and rollerskis when the snow melts.

meeting with Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali I. Al-Naimi during his visit to Norway.

Torger Hetland
torgerh@gmail.com

January 19, 2017
 Today I finished a very nice snow-skating run covering

15 miles in fantastic weather and perfect snow conditions.

There are quite a number asphalted tracks for rollerski training in Norway and some tracks are quite hilly and steep. I normally don't go more than three-four miles at a time but the challenges are the steep hills.

Especially when you go downhill...you can easily reach a speed of 20-30 miles. At that speed you simply cannot fall. So far, so good....

Torger Hetland

Aramco Service Awards?

January 25, 2017

Any idea what these awards are for? Perhaps they are early service awards.

The one with the two loops was taken from a tie clip and is about the size of a shirt button. The one with a wreath is about the size of a silver dollar.

David Jessich
jessich@hotmail.com



Touched by 'Gift Of the World'

March 1, 2017

Wendy Levine's "Gift of the World" [Fall 2016] is a very heart-touching story. It describes how a little girl was separated from her real parents due



Wendy Levine, adopted daughter of Aramcons Marty and Rosemarye Levine, returned to her birthplace in Crete in 1980. She is pictured with her birth mother Penelope Kalendis.

to extreme poverty, and the new parents adopted an unknown girl with happiness and flourished her with due care and diligence. My eyes were wet thinking how the poor parents dared to handover their blood to an alien/stranger and forget their child forever.

After returning from Greece, Wendy uttered a fine sentence in which she described all her feelings and sentiments from her heart and mind saying, "O Dad, I found out everything, but this is home."

"Dhahran Diversity" [about a presentation by retirees Bob and Shari Norberg in Minnesota] is an interesting and informative essay. The readers will know about Ali Al-Naimi and learn about Abdallah Al-Husaini, the little office boy, who became a successful publisher and a Qatari diplomat.

Shahid Husain
husainshahid@rediffmail.com

Aramcons' Treasures Featured in 'Traditional Arts of the Bedouin'

"Traditional Arts of the Bedouin," a show with ties to two Aramcons, ran Jan. 28-April 29 at The Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts at the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) in Melbourne. The show included 53 objects from the Nance Collection at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg and two items of women's apparel donated by Rosemarye



Rosemarye Levine poses next to the cloak she donated to the Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts in Melbourne, Fla. "It is my American idea recreating what tribal women devised," she said.

Levine: a brilliantly embroidered dress and a unique black wool cloak with symbols from a variety of tribes.

"The cloak is a modern interpretation of mine celebrating the recycling talents of the Bedu women," said Levine. "It is made of fine English wool, embellished with many pieces of beading or metal-work identification from the woman or women who would have been making the garment. It is my American idea recreating what tribal women devised."

Levine lived in al-Khobar and Dhahran with her husband Marty from 1981-92, building a collection of artifacts.

Paul and Colleen Nance lived in Saudi Arabia from 1952-83, collecting items from the kingdom and elsewhere that they displayed in the Nance Museum in Lone Jack, Mo., after retiring. In 2001, the Nances donated the collection to the University of Central Missouri. A selection of the artifacts has been touring the country.

Items on display included woven storage bags, traditional male clothing, jewelry and brass coffeepots.

"We are pleased to display textiles donated by Rosemarye as a wonderful complement to 'Traditional Arts of the

Bedouin,'" said Keidra Daniels Navaroli, assistant director and curator of the Center for Textile Arts.

"The exhibition focuses on aspects of traditional Bedouin life that survive today: home and family life, clothing and jewelry, and the importance of one's herds to survival and prosperity," the show's program said. "...Bedouin weaving, still crafted on a stick loom, demonstrates ancient knowledge of natural dyes and fibers and traditional patterns, while the women who create textiles use native stitches, not known outside the Bedouin world, to embroider meaning into the objects."

A tent erected by Saudi engineering students at FIT made the show even more special.

"It contained all the accoutrements for grinding coffee beans and preparing the cardamom-flavored drink served by nomads," said Levine, who lives in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla. "An Omani student recited poetry and there was a huge board where museumgoers could write their own poetry and then sit and discuss what flowed from their fingers.... This was not a stuffy, traditional museum offering. It was fun!"

Knox Shares Flight Tales with Gulf Coast 99s

Patsy Knox, a founding member of the Arabian Section of the 99s, the international organization of women pilots, hosted the local Emerald Angels of the Gulf Coast 99s at her home in Mary Esther, Fla., on Oct. 15, entrancing fellow flyers with stories about the history of flight in Saudi Arabia and Saudi Aramco's flying heritage.

"For five hours we didn't stop sharing. All were very interested in how the Saudi Arabian Section got started," said

Knox, who worked as a dietitian at the Dhahran Health Center from 1981-94.

Knox, who served as the first governor of the Arabian Section from 1989 until she retired, shared a two-part story about the company's first reconnaissance plane, the Fairchild-71, from recent issues of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah*.

"All 99 eyes opened widely when I showed them the articles from the magazines," a set of which were door prizes, Knox said.

Knox also gave a copies of the Fairchild-71 issues to an Air Force C-130 flight instructor "who flies over my house most every week," the chairperson of the Emerald Angels and another member of the 99s from Grand Bay, Ala.

Patsy Knox, center, welcomed members of Emerald Angels of the Gulf Coast 99s to her Gulf coast home in Florida in October.



Small World



Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah designer Matthew Bromley did a double-take when he spotted a Toyota minivan bearing a familiar name on the highway in front of his office in Austin, Texas, in February, and captured it on his phone. "Pretty cool seeing an Aramco license plate," he said. Retiree David Jessich of Austin owns minivan, along with two other vehicles—both Jaguar saloons—that wear company-related plates.

MATTHEW BROMLEY: BOTTOM RIGHT

Seymours Continue 'Friendly City' Ideal

Cornell and Shirley Seymour, who spent 32 years in the "Friendly City" of Abqaiq, showed that ideal is long-lasting by hosting three former Abqaiq students in their home for a week at Thanksgiving.

"While in Abqaiq, we were involved in several different youth-related activities including Little League, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts and coaching track at the Abqaiq School," said Cornell. "After retiring we maintained close connections with several students and their families."

Cornell, on the staff of the assistant to the vice president of Southern Area Oil Operations, retired in 2012.

Martha Edafiaga, a former Abqaiq student who was among the guests at the

Seymour home in Atlanta at Thanksgiving, fastens a pin on Shirley Seymour's lapel at a church anniversary celebration.



Shirley, a nurse practitioner at the Abqaiq Health Center, retired in 2006.

The Seymours invited Munachismo "Muna" Nwosu, his sister Sarah and Martha Edafiaga to join them and their daughters Zakiya and Ayisha at Thanksgiving.

The Nwosus attend Brook Hill School in Bullard, Texas. Their parents are Emmanuel and Elizabeth Nwosu of Abqaiq. Martha Edafiaga attends Stony Brook School in Stony Brook, N.Y. Her parents, Benjamin and Rebecca Edafiaga, now live in Canada.

"In Atlanta, they were a part of several family functions and we visited some notable sites, including the World of Coke, the Martin Luther King National Park Complex and Georgia Tech, my alma mater," said Cornell. "The time away from school also allowed the two seniors, Martha and Muna, to work on their college applications."

The Seymours' daughters, university graduates who live in Atlanta, probably offered some advice. Zakiya holds a Ph.D. in environmental engineering and Ayisha is a physical-therapist assistant.

Aramco Photographer Returned to Parliament

Adrian Waine returned to Britain's House of Commons in December as runner-up in the "Best Professional Photographer" EEF (Engineering Employers Federation) competition.

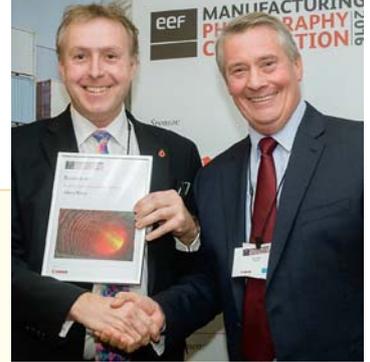
He took the prize with a striking photo from an industrial-hose factory in Glossop in north-central England.

In March, Britain's Dept. for International Trade informed Waine that his photo would be used in a campaign "to promote the benefits of doing business with the U.K."

Waine worked for the Photo Unit from 1988-95 and then established his own company, Photography for Industry, in Ellesmere Port in northwest England.

"I'm proud to have been named a runner-up and it has been an honor seeing my work displayed in the House of Commons alongside so many other fantastic images of modern-day U.K. manufacturing," Waine said.

He was shortlisted in the 2015 EEF competition.



Adrian Waine, left, receives his latest Engineering Employers Federation photo award at the House of Commons for a cleverly lighted image of an industrial hose.

Ballard Lends Voice to Liszt 'Master Class' DVD

Former Aramcon Pete Ballard has joined actor Michael York and singer-songwriter Billy Joel in a master-class DVD about the 19th-century Hungarian composer Franz Liszt. The Industrial Training Center teacher who outfitted the Abqaiq Players and later became a premier fashion-doll-maker, late last year lent his voice to four of 16 characters in the DVD set *Franz Liszt: Portrait of the Man & His*

Masterwork, The Sonata in B Minor.

Ballard's roles include Liszt's father Adam, King George IV and Count Géza Zichy, Liszt's student and good friend. York voices Liszt as an old man looking back on his life and Joel is the voice of the Polish pianist Frederic Chopin.

The set is the first in a master-class series by Ballard's friend, pianist Barbara Nissman. It is available at <http://threeor->

[angesrecordings.com/video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7s000IENZuo). A preview may be heard at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7s000IENZuo>.

Pete Ballard shares a light moment with pianist and musician master-class producer Barbara Nissman.



Medical Pioneer Meets Alma Mater's Dean

Dr. Arthur Bobb, Jr., 91, who retired as senior ophthalmologist at the Dhahran Health Center in 1984 after a 20-year career, met the dean of Temple University's School of Medicine in West Palm Beach, Fla., on Feb. 16. His son Fred (DH72)

Dr. Arthur Bobb, Jr., proudly wearing a Temple University baseball cap, and his son Fred, left, joined Temple Assistant Vice President Shawn Kleitz in West Palm Beach, Fla., in February. The 1984 Aramco retiree graduated from Temple's School of Medicine in 1948.

accompanied him to a reception and dinner.

Dr. Bobb graduated from Temple in 1948. He arrived in Dhahran with his wife Doris and sons Fred, Andrew and Alan late in 1963.

There, he worked on collecting eye-disease cultures in a joint Aramco-Harvard project to combat trachoma. He published 17 papers on eye illnesses in the region and initiated Aramco's first ophthalmology clinic.

He lives in Stuart, Fla., and Fred lives in Palm City.



REUNION Revels

GEEZERS TRADE SCRAPBOOK TALES IN SAN ANTONIO

By William Tracy

Aramco Brats who lived their early teens in Dhahran, Ras Tanura or Abqaiq during the late 1940s or early '50s are known as "Geezers"—as if to imply that they are getting old. Imagine!

These "special kids," many now in their 80s, get together every other year, alternating their reunions with those of the far larger contingent of Aramco Brats in general. On Nov. 6-10, fifty-three Geezers, including family members and friends, gathered at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, just across the street from the Alamo. (You remember that!)

Steve Furman and his wife Jane, of Houston, arranged the affair. Steve, who was one of the first seven American kids in Saudi Arabia as WWII came to an end, has a love of old hotels from his world travels as a young man. With a 150-year history, the Menger is the oldest continuously run hotel west of the Mississippi.

Steve hosted a reunion of his former U.S. Marine battalion at the Menger in 2012. So he knew that its attractions and charms, along with those of San Antonio, were sufficient to entertain a four-day gathering.

Geezers came from across the United States to meet at the Menger. Many used the reunion as a way of getting together for visits with brothers and sisters or grownup children.

Other post-WWII kids present were Luella (Beckley) Kurani and Paul Schmid-

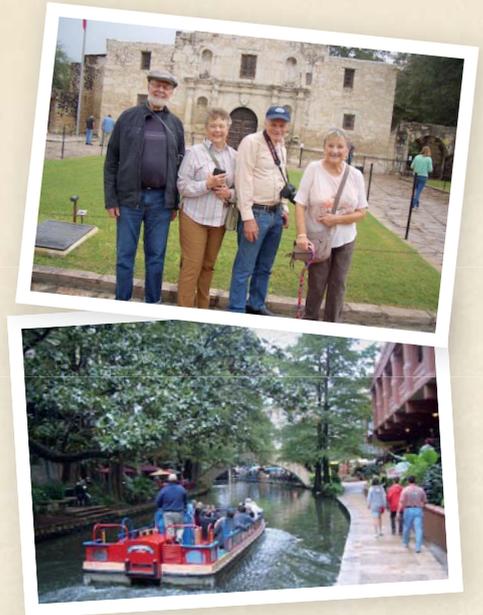
bauer. Luella was my next-door neighbor one year that I lived in Dhahran in the late 1940s. Pat (Hills) Finlayson, with husband Bruce, and Claudia (Hills) Dixon, with husband Tom, attended from Seattle and Dallas, respectively. Their parents were Liston and Fern Hills. Claudia and her twin sister Cynthia (not at this year's reunion) were among the two sets of Aramco "doubles" who met King Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud when he visited Dhahran in 1947.

Mary Pat (Singelyn) Lass, with husband Jerry, attended from Saratoga, Calif., as did her sister Margaret Anne (Singelyn) Fitch, with husband Dennis, from Sherman

Oaks, Calif. Their parents were Al and Mary Patricia Singelyn.

The sisters gained notoriety in the mid-'40s as the only children in Dhahran whose grandmother lived with them. Aramco Vice President James McPherson gave special permission for "GaGa" Singelyn to reside with her Aramco family. Her true name was Margaret Fitzgerald, and when her husband died she came to live with her daughter and her husband.

Young grandson Michael Singelyn couldn't pronounce "Grandma," so for him it came out as "GaGa," which so amused the family members that they





Far left: Mother-daughter duo Marilyn (Bunyan) Wilkins and Karen Wilkens chat with Paul Schmidbauer on the Menger's patio. Left: Steve Furman—who hosted the reunion with his wife Jane—poses with old friends Myles and Susan (Kellenberg) Jones. Second from bottom: Norman Gray, a retired pilot, attended with Betty Ann Calloway. Bottom: Kay Landis attended with her husband Dean.

tacting local Bedouins to collect truckloads of camel dung to use as manure on Dhahran's earliest lawns and gardens.

A brother-sister pair came, too: Terry Landis of Peoria, Ariz., and his sibling Kay, who attended with her husband Dean. Unusually, Kay retained her "maiden name" after marrying, because Dean also bore the surname Landis. They live in Phoenix.

Marilyn (Bunyan) Wilkens, of Walnut Creek, Calif., and Karen Wilkens of Atlanta made up a mother-daughter duo. Marilyn was my next-door neighbor near the beach in Ras Tanura in the late 1940s. Karen accompanied her mom to Saudi Arabia for Aramco's 75th-anniversary celebration in 2008.

Two couples had romantic stories to tell. Myles and Susan (Kellenberg) Jones were engaged during their college days in the 1950s, but broke up. Single again, they re-met at a 2001 Aramco reunion in Tucson, and this time it took! They married in 2003 and live in Grass Valley, Calif.

Retired pilot Norman Gray of Santa

Cruz, Calif., and Betty Ann Calloway of Greenville, N.C., dated in high school. They reconnected several years ago and she will soon be moving to Santa Cruz.

Among the Top 10 topics of conversation overheard in San Antonio were: What year did your father first travel to Saudi Arabia and then when (usually later in those days) did you, your mother and siblings arrive? And where was your first house, and where did you go off to school after the eighth or ninth grade?

Other memories and stories that emerged during visits in the Menger's lobby and restaurant involved golf on sandy greens, returning-student talent shows, long-ago Halloween celebrations and high-school yearbooks.

Too many stories for the space available here. But if you want to hear them—or add some of your own—you can always attend the next Geezer reunion, that's assuming you are old enough, in 2018!

You might also help choose a location and organize the next Geezer gathering. Volunteers are always welcome.

(and eventually the whole community) used it. Ga Ga became known for con-

HOUSTON, AUSTIN FÊTES DRAW CROWDS

Close to 150 retirees and family members attended Christmas parties in Houston on Dec. 14 and Austin on Dec. 20, some sharing stories going back more than half a century.

HOUSTON

The Houston Area Retirees Holiday Luncheon, hosted by Bill and Mary Smart at the Brae-Burn Country Club, drew nearly 50 guests with Aramco or Aramco Services Company credentials.

Guests with decades of service at Aramco and Aramco Services Company took time out to pose for a photo at the Houston Area Retirees Holiday Luncheon.



WILLIAM TRACY: UPPER RIGHT; TOP (2); PAUL SCHMIDBAUER: UPPER RIGHT; BOTTOM (2); ARTHUR CLARK: BOTTOM

The holiday luncheon, a tradition since the early 1990s, has been held at the club since 2013.

Brae-Burn was established two years before Standard Oil of California began exploring for oil in Saudi Arabia in 1933, Bill noted. He asked the group to remember the five members of the retiree group who had died in 2016: Sam Oliveri, Bill Fairlie, Laney Littlejohn, Glenn Crabtree and Mel Painter.

He also thanked those who had hosted the luncheons during the year: Sally Johnson, Freddie Wong, Neil Fahmy and Verne Stueber, Najwa Hajjar and Markey Howell, Edith Parks, Mike and Linda Sawran, Stan and Peggy McGinley, and Betty Bobbitt and Markey Howell.

AUSTIN

David and Vicki Jessich hosted their first Christmas party for Austin-area retirees at The Austin Club. Eighty-eight guests attended the event at the city's oldest private dining club, which opened in 1878 as an opera house, second only in time to the Galveston Opera House.

Lucy Templer reminisced with Marte Powers, recalling that the two met in the Commissary when she (then Lucy Pfothauer) arrived in Dhahran as a secretary early in 1955. She also met Jim Templer

that year and they married in The Hague that fall. Brock Powers joined the company in 1947 and Marte arrived in the early '50s, so she was already a relative "veteran" when she and Lucy met 62 years ago.

Their husbands retired in 1979 and 1982, respectively.

On the other side of the retiree spectrum was Bobby Bammel, who attended with his wife Karen. He retired July 31, 2016.

"I didn't know what to expect," Karen said of her first retiree Christmas party. "It's been great!"

Clockwise from top: Austin Christmas party hosts David and Vicki Jessich pose with their able assistants, daughter Laura Jessich (right) and Lori Walters; Bobby Bammel and his wife Karen (left), the most recent retirees (2016), met Lucy Templer (right), who joined Aramco in 1955, and fellow old-timer Marge Johannson; Dan Walters and his wife Lynda flank Gen Johannson.



KARACHI RETIREES HOLD 16TH GET-TOGETHER

The Saudi Aramco Ex-Employees Assn. (SAEEA) held its 16th gathering Dec. 4 at Pavilion End Club in Karachi. A total of 126 retirees and family members attended, greeting old friends and enjoying the facilities at the club.

SAEEA President Kamal Farooqui updated everyone the activities of group. The SAEEA lost one member, Anwar Mirza, in September.

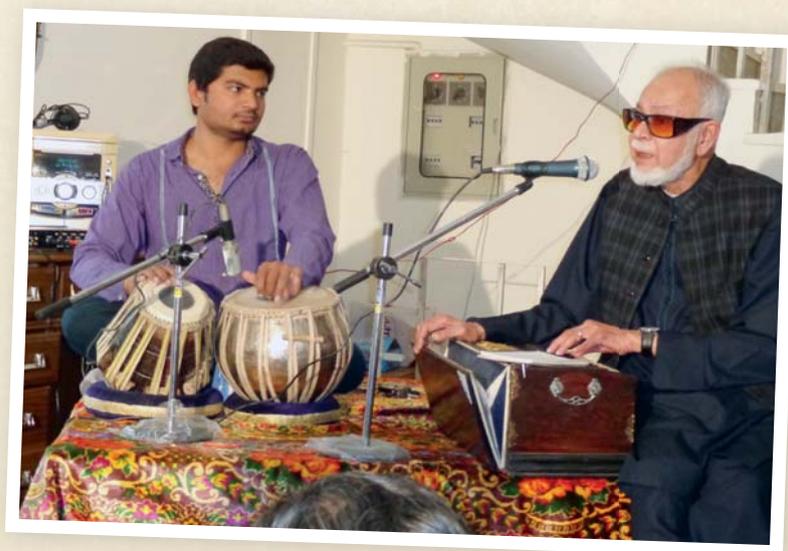
Three new members, Ikramullah Khan, Riazul Haque and Abdul Raheem, joined SAEEA. Ikramullah Khan and Abdul Raheem attended from the United States and Riaz Ul Haque came from Islamabad.

Meanwhile, Dr. Khawaja Yousufullah Siddiqui, a former employee of the Saudi Aramco Medical Services Organization, organized a family musical program Feb.

Retiree Syed Mahmood Ali sings a *ghazal*—a form of poetry that has roots in the Arabian Peninsula—in Urdu at the home of Dr. Khawaja Yousufullah Siddiqui, a former Aramcon, in Karachi. His singing was part of a musical program celebrating Dr. Siddiqui's visit.

12 at his Karachi residence during a visit to Pakistan. Among the guests were retirees Syed Mahmood Ali, Mohammad Abdul Matin, Shafiq Ahmed Khan and Iqbal Ahmed Khan.

"The event started with a delicious lunch,



followed by the musical program," said Iqbal Khan. "Everyone enjoyed the event."

BRATS TO THE FORE

'Atlanta' Glows for Abqaiq Grad

The glow from the TV comedy-drama "Atlanta" lit things up for Paul Simms (AB80) early this year. He's an executive producer/writer for the FX series that won two Golden Globes in January and two top honors from the Writers Guild of America (WGA) in February.

His parents, Bob and Linda Simms, taught at the Abqaiq School, where his brother Mike graduated in 1978. Bob retired as supervisor of Employee Relations in Abqaiq.

"Atlanta" won Golden Globes for best comedy series and for best actor in a comedy series (Danny Glover). The WGA gave it awards for Best New Series and Best Comedy Series.

Simms, a 1988 Harvard graduate, wrote for *The Harvard Lampoon*. He worked as a comedy writer for NBC's "Late Night with David Letterman" and



Paul Simms saw the FX comedy-drama series "Atlanta," for which he's an executive producer and writer, win Golden Globes and Writer's Guild of America honors early this year.

then wrote for HBO's "The Larry Sanders Show" in the early '90s, going on to direct and produce the HBO series "The Flight of the Conchords."

He created, wrote and produced the NBC comedy "NewsRadio," which kicked off in 1995. He has contributed stories to *The New Yorker* since 2007.

"[D]eprived of early exposure to "I Love Lucy," "The Brady Bunch"—indeed to most of the sitcom canon—Mr. Simms seems to have had to depend for inspiration primarily on the real world, including his own quasi-immigrant experiences," *The New York Times* reported in 1995. "He is, nonetheless, a certified comedy Wunderkind...."

Born in California, Simms was three when his parents took teaching jobs in Karachi, Pakistan. The family moved to Abqaiq when he was seven.

Upon enrolling in boarding school in California, "I was a completely blank slate," he told the *Times*. "...I knew nothing about being an American kid."

He quickly connected with U.S. culture, however, and his work on *The Harvard Lampoon* "put him straight into the television comedy pipeline," the *Times* said.

Owen Carries on Tradition In Inauguration Parade

Chris Owen, 16, son of retirees Tom and Kathy Owen, kept up a family tradition Jan. 20 when he rode with the Culver Military Academy Black Horse Troop in Donald Trump's Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C. The Culver Troop B member is the grandson of late Aramcons William and Peggy Owen.

"The kids said it was so cool to see the President look directly at them and give them a 'thumbs up' of approval!" said Kathy Owen, who also attended a presidential ball.

"Chris loved it and it will be a special memory," she said, adding that the ceremony involved a "family connection and a lot of pride."

Chris's uncle, David, who works in Dhahran, rode for Culver in Jimmy Carter's Inaugural Parade in 1977. He was also a member of Black Horse Troop B.

This year marked the 17th time the Black Horse Troop has appeared in the parade. Fifty-six of its riders joined 24 riders from Culver Girls Academy on the 17-hour trip from Indiana.

They were out with their horses near the Capitol around 7 a.m., but the parade didn't start until around 3:30 p.m. It was almost 5 p.m. when the Culver Black Horse Troop members—the only riders in the parade al-



Chris Owen and fellow members of the 56-strong Culver Military Academy Black Horse Troop B arrived early to take part in the Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 20.

lowed to carry the Stars and Stripes—arrived in front of the White House.

Brats Shaan Nair of Dhahran and Himanshu Umare of Ras Tanura also rode in the Culver contingent.

On Jan. 21, the Culver troops participated in a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, laying wreaths at the graves of Culver graduates. Chris, accompanied by his dad and brother William (DH00), placed a wreath on the grave of his uncle, Bill (DH59), who was killed in Vietnam in 1969. He was the first Owen to attend Culver Academy.

Scholar Teams Up to Boost Understanding of Muslim World

Peter Mandaville, who advised Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry about knotty Middle Eastern issues, has also played a key role in a project to help young Americans learn about the Muslim world by highlighting the linked histories of societies around the Mediterranean. Mandaville (DH87), a professor of international affairs at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., led fellow scholars and curriculum specialists in creating "Our Shared Past in the Mediterranean: A World History Curriculum Project for Educators."

The son of retiree Jim Mandaville and the late Lotte Mandaville, he has been studying the Islamic world for more than a quarter century, focusing on how changes in communications impact societies there. His expertise saw him drafted into the State Dept. on Clinton's Policy and Planning staff in 2011-12 and Kerry's Office of Religion and Global Affairs from 2015-17.



Peter Mandaville led fellow scholars in a project focusing on societies around the Mediterranean to give educators the tools to teach young Americans about the Muslim world.

Discussing how to address complex developments in the Middle East was “exhilarating,” he said.

His role as an educator led him and fellow scholars to mount “Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys,” a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Assn. (ALA) aimed at enhancing the understanding of the Muslim world, especially in Middle America.

Mandaville guided a dozen experts who identified 25 books and three films that would “provide a well-rounded portrait of the Muslim world,” he said. Nearly 1,000 public libraries across the United States acquired free sets through the ALA. The project launched in 2012.

NEH funding also enabled the team to develop a website and online resources to build on the “Bookshelf” project. “The team developed a bunch of original material and George Mason’s Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies became the hub of the project,” Mandaville said.

“The Muslim Journeys project presents...resources representing diverse perspectives on the people, places, histories, beliefs, practices, and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world,” says its website (<http://bridging-cultures.neh.gov/muslimjourneys/about>).

The latest step in the educational initiative was to package content from the expanded “Bookshelf” to “allow teachers to tack it to topics and themes being taught” Mandaville said.

“The Mediterranean has been a zone of

cultural exchange throughout history,” he explained. “By focusing there, teachers can link into materials ranging from Mesopotamia to Greece to Egypt, for example, to supplement their courses.”

There are six modules in the project, bringing the region from its ancient past up to the present. The website is <http://islamicstudiescenter.gmu.edu/research/projects/our-shared-past-in-the-mediterranean>.

Saudi Investor Likes Texans

Investor and entrepreneur Abdulaziz Alnaim, the son of the late Vice President of Exploration Abdulla Al-Naim, delivered a well-received talk entitled “Investing Globally under Uncertainty” to about 50 guests of the Bilateral U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce in Houston on Feb. 1.

He spoke about making investments that are politically, environmentally and socially sustainable, while reaching beyond tapped markets and seeking opportunities around the globe. He also answered questions about Saudi Arabia, including the kingdom’s Vision 2030, and the world economy.

“I had a wonderful time...,” Alnaim said after his talk, one of four that he gave in Texas under the sponsorship of the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture in Dhahran.

“I would recommend bringing more entrepreneurs from Saudi to the U.S. and vice-versa to help each side understand more about the people and the culture,” he said. “Because entrepreneurs and inves-

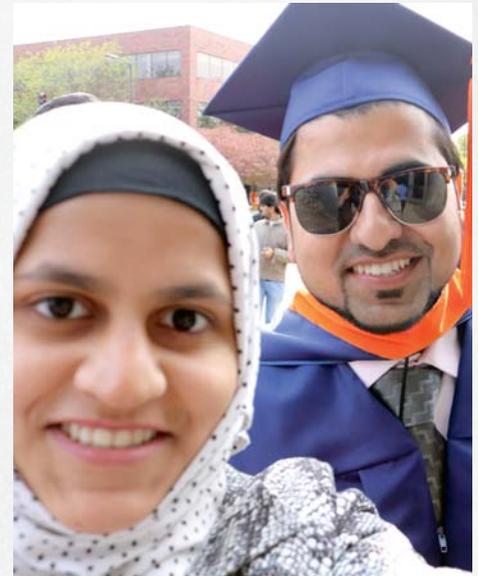


Abdulaziz Alnaim talked to audiences in Texas about investing globally in uncertain times and answered questions about the Saudi Arabia’s economy as part of that equation.

tors usually have wide networks, I think that knowledge would spread.”

Alnaim is the founder and managing partner of Mayar Capital, a London-based investment firm. He graduated from the Dhahran Ahliyya School in 1999, earned a degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and worked briefly in the Treasurer’s Dept. in Dhahran in 2003 before launching his own business career.

His Feb. 1 discussion followed talks in Dallas and Frisco. He spoke at the University of Houston on Feb. 2.



Swim University founder Zubair Mohammed Iftekar, joined by his sister Ruqaiya (left) and his mother Akbari Begum, celebrated his graduation from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Graduate Starts Swim University

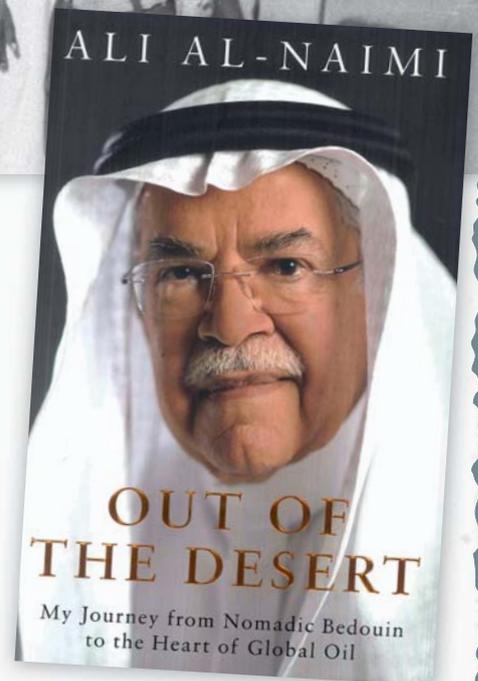
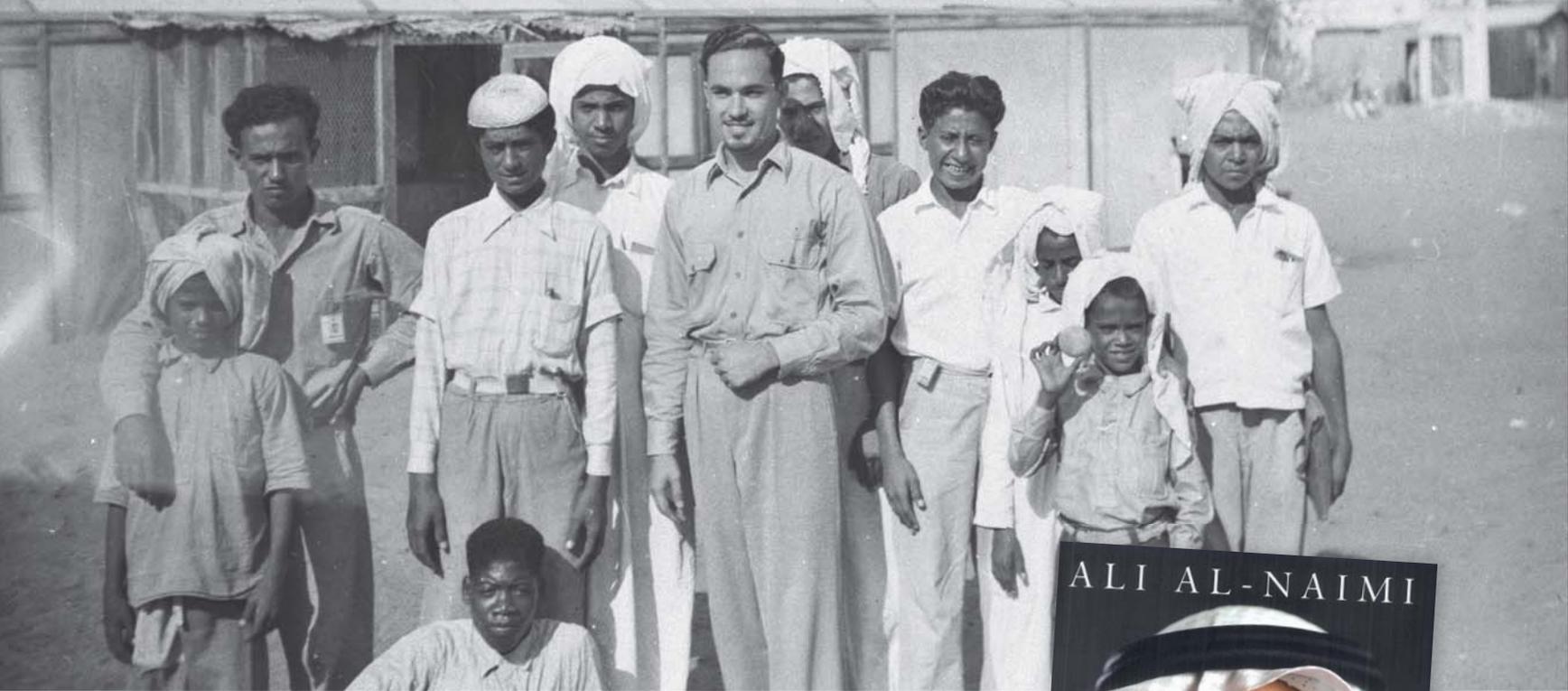
Zubair Mohammed Iftekar, the son of retiree Mohammed Iftekaruddin and Akbari Begum, received an MS degree in electrical and computer engineering last year from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). An avid swimmer, he started Razorfish Swim University in his hometown of Hyderabad, India, the city’s first such school (www.razorfishswimuniversity.org).

Iftekar was born in Dhahran, graduated from International Indian School in Dammam and earned a BS degree from Osmania University in Hyderabad.

During his UIC studies, he became a certified lifeguard and a water-safety instructor and worked at campus recreation.

His father, who worked in the Refinery Maintenance Dept. from 1977-2010, was known as Ras Tanura’s “Relief Valve Man.” He is the founder and general secretary of the Ex-Saudi Aramco Employees Assn. in Hyderabad.

STORY of a BEDOUIN BOY



By WILLIAM TRACY

“My country and I, for all practical purposes, were joined at birth,” writes Ali I. Al-Naimi in his informative and charming autobiography, *Out of the Desert: My Journey from Nomadic Bedouin to the Heart of Global Oil*, published late last year.

Al-Naimi was born an impoverished Bedouin in the desert of eastern Arabia in 1935, just three years after the powerful tribal leader Abdulaziz Al Sa‘ud had established the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Three years following his birth, Max Steineke, a geologist with the Cali-

fornia Arabian Standard Oil Company, confirmed that pools of oil underlay the kingdom’s eastern deserts.

Both of these historic landmarks shaped the life of Al-Naimi, who was destined to play a key role in shaping the kingdom’s energy industry as minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources after a full career at Aramco.

The secret to his success was “hard work, luck and making my bosses look good,” he writes in his introduction, quipping that when your boss is promoted, “you can take his job. It certainly worked for me.”

Al-Naimi devotes the book’s first chapters to his childhood and teenage years. As a four-year-old, he was entrusted-

Top: Around 1946, when Ali Al-Naimi (second from right) was 11, he attended the Jabal School in Dhahran, where—along with studying English, Arabic and math—he learned to play baseball. Later, at Lehigh University, the Jabal School shortstop surprised his teachers with his baseball skills. Above: In *Out of the Desert*, Al-Naimi looks back on those days—and much more.

ed to watch over his family's herd of goats. His immediate family and close family clans lived in black tents made of goat hair called *bayt al-sbar* (house of hair), which they moved seasonally in search of water and grass.

As Al-Naimi grew into manhood, his life began to influence events within the petroleum industry and in the kingdom at large. After 20 years as an ambitious, hard-working Aramco employee he became its first Saudi president, and then CEO of Saudi Aramco. As he approached retirement age in 1995, King Fahd ibn Abdulaziz appointed him to the ministerial post that he held for another 20 years.

Out of the Desert is an easy read, written with modesty and even self-deprecating humor. Proud of his early English-language skills, for example, Al-Naimi recounts that he once ordered antelope at a U.S. restaurant, explaining that it was an Arabian favorite. The

“ ”

CONSCIOUS OF HIS SMALL SIZE, AL-NAIMI ADMITS: WHEN HE WAS NAMED “SHORTSTOP” HE WONDERED IT WAS A REFERENCE TO HIS HEIGHT.

waitress interrupted to point out that the printed word on the menu was really “cantaloupe.”

From the beginning of the oil enterprise, the kingdom encouraged its American partners to hire and train Saudis so that, eventually, they would run the company. Al-Naimi's older brother Abdullah, who had a job as an office boy, was one of some 8,000 early Saudi workers.

He began to follow Abdullah to his morning classes in basic English, Arabic and arithmetic, then to his

afternoon of work. When Abdullah died, his 12-year-old brother was hired to replace him—until the kingdom decreed that the minimum working age was 18.

Eager to stay employed, Al-Naimi found three successive jobs in

the Dhahran area, none of which lasted more than a week or two. He then decided to try Aramco again.

As birth certificates were rare at the time, Al-Naimi used his considerable gift of gab to persuade a family doctor to give him a letter affirming that he was 17, perhaps even 18. He was rehired as a junior clerk.

Four hours each day he studied shorthand, bookkeeping and typing at Aramco's Jabal School. After classes and work, he played soccer and baseball. Conscious

Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali I. Al-Naimi, center, looks as Crown Prince Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz inaugurates the Haradh Natural Gas and Oil Development Project on Jan. 19, 2004. Al-Naimi, the first Saudi president of Aramco, was appointed to head the ministry in 1995.



of his small size, Al-Naimi admits that when he was first named “shortstop” he wondered if it was a reference to his height.

In 1953 he was among a group of young Saudi employees chosen to attend a summer program at the American University of Beirut. He studied science, chemistry, biology and algebra for one month, then was selected for a second month at Aleppo College in Syria. He transferred to the Exploration Dept. to improve his prospects for further education and future promotions. In 1956 Aramco sent him back to Beirut to finish his formal high-school education and in 1959 to the company’s New York office, where the then 24-year-old confessed to culture shock.

He worked toward a bachelor’s degree at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania and traveled to Wyoming for geology classes

one summer. When Aramco helped him buy a car, he was amazed to see that in America, as in Saudi Arabia, prices could be open to negotiation. His travels even landed him and a fellow Lehigh student in jail.

That happened when local boys identified Al-Naimi and a tall Dutch classmate

Another summer, Al-Naimi studied underground water sources in Arizona and New Mexico, where restaurant waiters often mistook him to be a Mexican. By then fluent in English, Arabic and German (though not in Spanish), Al-Naimi graduated in the top quarter of his class at Lehigh.

In 1962 he planned to travel to California to earn a graduate degree in geology at Stanford. But he first flew home in search of a bride, quickly arranged a marriage to a lovely young cousin on Bahrain and married her.

The couple then traveled to America, he to his university studies, she to earn a high-school diploma. The following year, a geology degree in hand, he went back to work in Saudi Arabia.

The bulk of the book deals with his subsequent working years. Al-Naimi was employed in Aramco’s Exploration and Production Dept. and soon after, while in charge of Production Distribution, he became the first Saudi department manager.

As he rose through the ranks he mastered a range of corporate skills, worked with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and was on board as world oil demand surged in the 1970s and Aramco’s payroll doubled to 19,500. The company found commercial uses for the associated gas that it had formerly flared and built new export terminals on the Gulf and the Red Sea.

The kingdom gradually bought 100-percent ownership of Aramco from its U.S. owners and placed increased emphasis on Saudi management, and the company hired more women. When oil prices spiraled or collapsed Al-Naimi worked with other major producing countries such as Iran, Iraq, Russia, Mexico or Venezuela to rebalance supply with demand.

Fluctuations in oil prices influenced research-and-development investments in

“ ”

THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS: “HARD WORK, LUCK AND MAKING MY BOSSES LOOK GOOD.”

as foreigners when they were sightseeing near Laramie one weekend and began following their VW Bug on the highway. As the two friends passed through the town of Centennial, they were surprised—then relieved—to find themselves under arrest overnight for what the local police explained was their own protection from the young ruffians.



In 1953 Aramco sent Al-Naimi to the American University of Beirut for his first out-of-kingdom schooling. He’s shown here at his dormitory desk when he returned to the university in 1956 to complete his high-school education.



Above: Ali Al-Naimi, Saudi Aramco president and CEO, right, strides next to Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham Nazer, on a visit to the Philippines to discuss an energy partnership in 1994. Right: Al-Naimi spoke at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, where he is chairman of the board of trustees, in early 2017. "Education has played a vital role in my life," he said. "What I really learned was to how work hard...a lesson I never forgot."



alternative energy sources. The kingdom refocused attention on the exploitation of non-petroleum mineral resources.

Meanwhile, the company's subsidiary Saudi Refining Inc. partnered with Texaco to create Star Enterprise to expand refining and chemical plants in the United States, and then linked up with Texaco and Shell to establish Motiva, a refining-and-marketing venture. In addition, Saudi Aramco established Vela International Marine International, making a major investment in a tanker fleet.

The company used a new technique of horizontal drilling to tap a large oil field in the southern Rub' al-Khali, bypassing towering sand dunes. It also began to capture and store air-polluting carbon emissions.

In the late 1980s Aramco had begun to consider the Far East as a possible strong future market, even when the Chinese were still driving more bicycles

than cars. Al-Naimi visited the region to look at opportunities in China, Korea, Japan and the Philippines.

One of his final tasks as oil minister was to obtain Saudi Aramco's help in planning and building the kingdom's first solely graduate-level university. King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, north of Jiddah, was completed in 2009, with a \$20 billion endowment arranged by Al-Naimi to ensure its future independence. At least 50 percent of its enrollment consists of foreign students with their non-Saudi perspectives and, in a break with Saudi tradition, the university is coeducational.

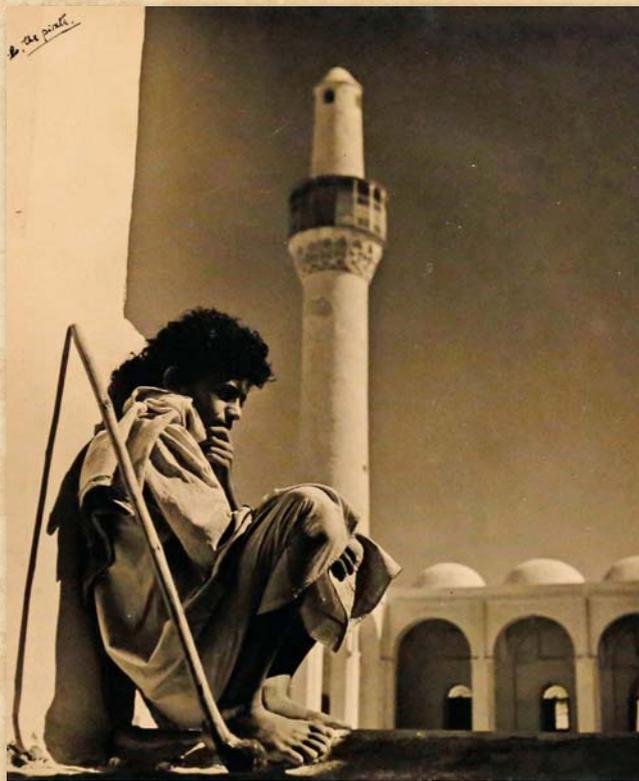
Al-Naimi, who retired in 2015, continues to enjoy an active life with his wife, his four adult children and eight grandchildren. In his 80s, he still partakes in his longtime hobbies: hiking, target shooting, and fishing in Alaska. Certainly, he can look back fondly on a life summed up so well in the subtitle of his book: "My Journey from Nomadic Bedouin to the Heart of Global Oil."

Images & Artifacts COME HOME

Written by
ARTHUR CLARK

BRATS DONATE TO CENTER FOR WORLD CULTURE

The children of early company employees have given paintings, photographs and a canvas bag that once held Saudi payrolls to the Archives section of the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture in Dhahran. The landmark facility, which stands near the site the where the com-



pany struck oil in 1938, was formally inaugurated by King Salman ibn Abdulaziz in December; the public opening is being planned.

In November, Bob and Fran Rodstrom donated three photographs of Eastern Province scenes by Aramco employee Ilo Battigelli (“Ilo the Pirate”) and one of the 2,000-riyal canvas bags that held the salaries of Saudi employees and contractors through the 1940s.

“We’ve moved to a smaller place and feel these photographs and the payroll bag are most appropriately given to Saudi Aramco,” Bob wrote.

Bob’s father, Charles “Rod” Rodstrom, joined Standard Oil of California in San Francisco in 1926 at age 17, then worked in its office in Venezuela and in 1934 was offered the opportunity to relocate to Bahrain. He met and married Alice Henrietta Oudemool, a Columbia

This photograph, titled “Saudi Arabia, 1948,” was among three pictures signed by Ilo Battigelli (“Ilo the Pirate”) that Bob and Fran Rodstrom donated to the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture. Bob’s father, Charles “Rod” Rodstrom, worked for the company in Bahrain, Dhahran and the United States.



Bob and Fran Rodstrom attended the event held by Saudi Aramco in Washington, D.C., to mark King Salman ibn Abdulaziz’s visit to the United States in September 2015. Bob met King Abdulaziz twice as a child.

University-educated nurse working at the Bahrain Mission Hospital. In 1939, he transferred to the California Arabian Standard Oil Company, Aramco’s predecessor, as company representative in Bahrain.

Bob and his brother Charles were born in Bahrain. Their sister Muriel was born on a trip to the United States and sister Betty was born in Dhahran when her father was on assignment there in 1946. The family returned to the United States in 1948 and Charles retired in 1949.

“My parents talked a lot about Saudi Arabia after we came back to the States

Nancy Suttle and Carolyn Lummus, left and right, the daughters of Carl and Myrtle Flint, donated four paintings by Reg Strange to the Center for World Culture. Inset: Carolyn and Nancy are pictured left and right with their mother Myrtle in their 1951 passport photo.

and when we were growing up,” wrote Bob. “I think the experience made them more aware of other ways of life and religious views that you hear about, but until you experience them you aren’t even close to understanding....”

Bob and his mother met King Abdulaziz in 1947 when he visited Dhahran. “I was too young to have memories of that,” he said, “but I did see him briefly in the early 1950s in Washington when he came to visit and that was very exciting. My father was in charge of getting Blair House ready for him.”

Rod Rodstrom had warm feelings for Saudi Arabia. “I shall never be able to forget the many wonderful experiences I have had in this part of the world,” he wrote to his parents in 1946. “So much is being done and so much has to be done, but I hope when I leave that I shall feel perfectly contented in having done my share, as little as it were, in developing this wonderful oil country.”



In January, Nancy Suttle (RT57) and Carolyn Lummus (RT60), the daughters of Carl and Myrtle Flint, donated four paintings of local Bedouin scenes by Aramco artist Reg Strange.

Carl Flint arrived in the kingdom in 1949 and Nancy and Carolyn arrived with their mother 18 months later. The family departed in 1960 and both sisters live in Texas.

Flint managed one of the storehouses and later oversaw the operations at West Pier.

Reg Strange, from London, joined Aramco in 1951 and was involved in vocational training in Ras Tanura. His retirement story in 1968 describes him as a “leading artist.”

“Ras Tanura was just a little place then; everybody knew everybody,” said Nancy. “Reg Strange had a reputation as a good artist and his artwork was quite sought after.”

“The paintings bring back fond memories,” said Carolyn. “They are part of the history of Saudi Aramco [and highlight] the way Arabia looked in the 1950s. Of course,

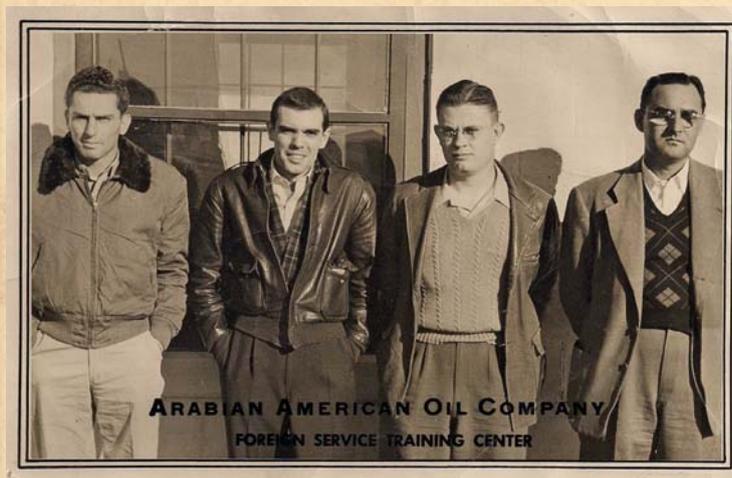
in our minds it’s still like that.”

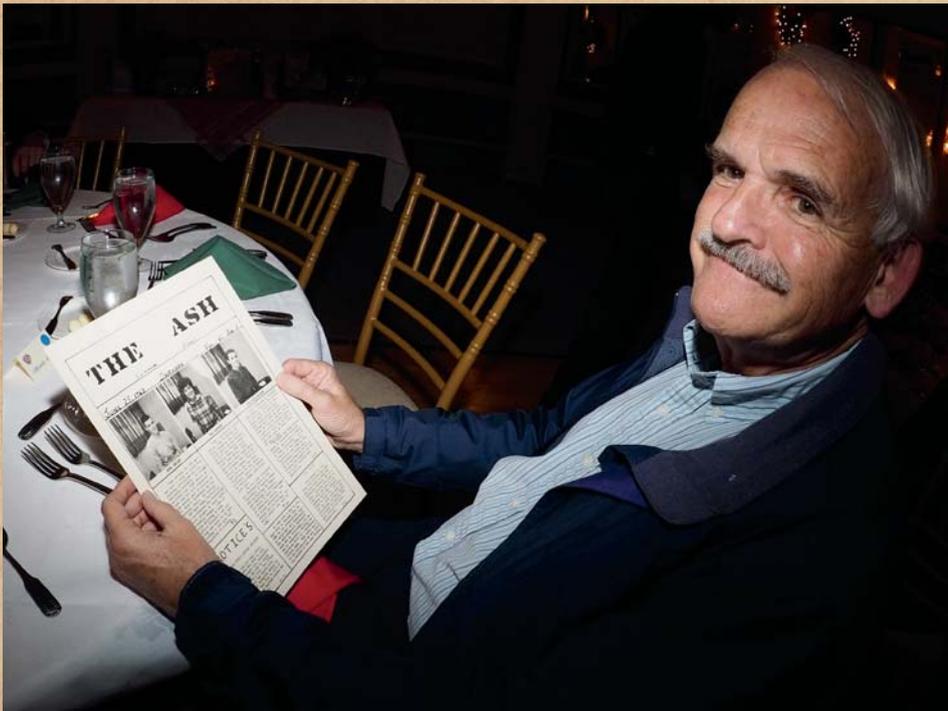
“We have wonderful memories of that time in our lives,” added Nancy. “Arabia will always pull at our heartstrings.

“The paintings have been in the back of a closet since Mom died in 2013. Dad passed away in 1965. We would like to think of the paintings being back in Saudi Arabia where we feel they belong.”



Left: **Charles “Rod” Rodstrom**, pictured with his wife Alice, started his career in the Gulf in 1934 when Standard Oil of California posted him to Bahrain. Alice was a nurse at the Bahrain Mission Hospital when they met. Below: **Carl Flint**, far right, trained at Aramco’s orientation center prior to his arrival in Ras Tanura in 1949. His wife and daughters joined him 18 months later.





Charlie Foreman displays one of the issues of *The Ash* that he donated to the Center for World Culture. The newspaper was produced by returning students from the 1950s into the 1970s as part of the company's summer recreation program.

THE ASH IS BACK

Copies of *The Ash*, Aramco's summer-student newspaper, popped back into circulation in December when Charlie Foreman, the son of Aramcos Reuel and Eve Foreman, donated around 15 issues of the publication from 1963, '65 and '66 to the Archives of the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture.

Foreman lived in Ras Tanura from 1953 to 1960, then moved to Dhahran when his father was transferred there. He graduated in 1962, returned as a summer

student and joined the company to work for Project Management and Construction from 1974-80 and for Facilities Planning from 1990-2000.

The Ash was produced in Dhahran by returning students during summer vacation as part of the company's recreation program for them.

"I was not directly connected to *The Ash*, but I was there and got some of the 'in' references," Foreman said with a grin. "The returning students' newspaper started in 1958 as *Wadjud Ma'afi* ("Lots of Nothing") and became *The Students' Voice* and then *The Ash*—or what remained after the company's *Sun and Flare* weekly burnt.

"Remember, this was the time when Aramco was still flaring the associated gas at all the GOSPs. The flares really lit up the sky."

"*The Ash* was a record of what the summer students were doing, basketball, bowling, dhow trips, pool tournaments—which were really well attended—and also softball," Foreman said. Some of the issues also published poetry.

Rhea Cyr, who was in charge of Summer Student Recreation activities for two years in the 1960s, is listed as "Chief Speaker" for *The Ash* in 1965. Her daughter Wendy Cyr (DH64) and fellow graduate Kathy

The first issue of Vol. 6 of *The Ash* in 1963 introduced Editor Joe Williamson, right; Business Manager Mike Morgan, left; and Assistant Manager Pam Ehrsgott—respectively, a university junior, sophomore and freshman.

Mandis were typists for *The Ash* that year. Allan Lameier (DH65) and his brother Mark (DH68), the sons of Robert and Ruth Lameier, edited *The Ash* in the early 1970s.

Allan edited the four issues in the summer of 1971. Contributors included Jeff Haug, Tom Owen, Mark Prugh, Kim Kay, Mike Simon, Bill Scott and Rashid Al-Mogait.

Mark, an editor the next summer, remembered Noreen "Pixie" McGrath and Vicki Kaharl among the publication's contributors. "Not being a story writer myself, I recall it being very challenging to solicit others for articles and to have anything to print by deadlines," he said, adding that Mateen Ellass was the editor in 1973.

Doug Webb (DH72), the son of Frank and Margaret Webb, worked on *The Ash* in 1976 and 1977 as part of his job in Summer Student Recreation. He recalled fellow staffers Erica Ryrholm, K.C. Crocker, Brooke Lafrenz, Sandy Taylor, Mazin Abbas and Sandy Slaine.

Tom Owen (DH68), the son of Bill and Peggy Owen, said his work on *The Ash* in the early '70s kept up a family tradition. He said the newspaper went out of business in the late '70s when the company dropped its summer-student employment program, resulting in a fall in the number of returning collegians.

"*The Ash* included schedules for all of these activities and articles of interest to the various summer students returning from schools throughout the world...all under the ever-present watchful eye of Ray Mestrezat," Owen said. Mestrezat joined Aramco in 1948 and retired from Recreation and Residential Services in 1972.

Owen's late brother Bill (DH59) worked for Summer Student Recreation in 1965 and was heavily involved in *The Ash* at that time. His brother Rick (DH61), sister Randa (DH65) and other students who were not necessarily working for Summer Student Recreation also contributed to *The Ash*.

Bill Owen is listed as "layout artist" and both Bill and Rick Owen are listed as "slaves" (reporters) in *The Ash* in 1965.

Randa Owen-Williams recalls working on *The Ash*, "probably the summers of '68 and '69. Jeff Yaeger, I believe, was the editor one or more of those years, and Linda Esposito was also heavily involved."

Ray Lovell (DH60), the son of Raymond G. Lovell, remembered returning to Dhahran as a summer student from 1961-67 and contributing a story about skin diving to *The Ash* around 1965. "Boy, does that bring back memories," he said.



NEW DONORS JOIN 'HOMECOMING' DRIVE

Antiquities donors with links to the company going back as far as seven decades have joined the Antiquities Homecoming Project sponsored by Saudi Aramco on behalf of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTNH). The project, launched in 2012, has drawn thousands of archeological objects from more than 40 expatriate donors.

Susan Hobbs returned four small clay oil lamps, coins, beads, arrowheads, a bottle and two ceramic pots after reading about the campaign in *AramcoWorld*. She's the daughter of Charles and Vesta Redmond. He joined the Exploration Dept. in 1945 and retired as senior paleontologist.

The family discovered most of the items

in the desert outside of Dhahran. Hobbs recalled the excitement she felt as a child in "finding one pot and then...realizing there were several pots and that some of them were whole."

"When my parents retired 51 years ago, they had the artifacts shipped back to their home in Pacific Grove, Calif., where they were displayed in a glass case until my mother's death," she said in 2016.

Kathy Dunsmore, who lived in Dhahran in the 1960s, donated arrowheads, potsherds and a coin found in the Eastern Province. Her father, John Neally, joined the Communications Dept. in 1959 and she arrived with her brother Pat and her mother Mary the next year.

The artifacts she returned included potsherds collected near Jubail and arrowheads her father found on trips to Nariyah and Safaniya. "Pottery was all over" when the family took off-road trips, she said.

Jerry Cape donated artifacts such as a bayonet and cannonball,

a grinder and ceramic items including smoking pipes found on weekend outings when he worked for the U.S. Geological Survey in Jiddah from 1990-93.

Cape's daughter Tina is married to Kyle Pakka, a member of the Public Relations Dept. in Dhahran and the former editor of *Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah*, who told him about the efforts of the SCTNH to repatriate archeological artifacts.

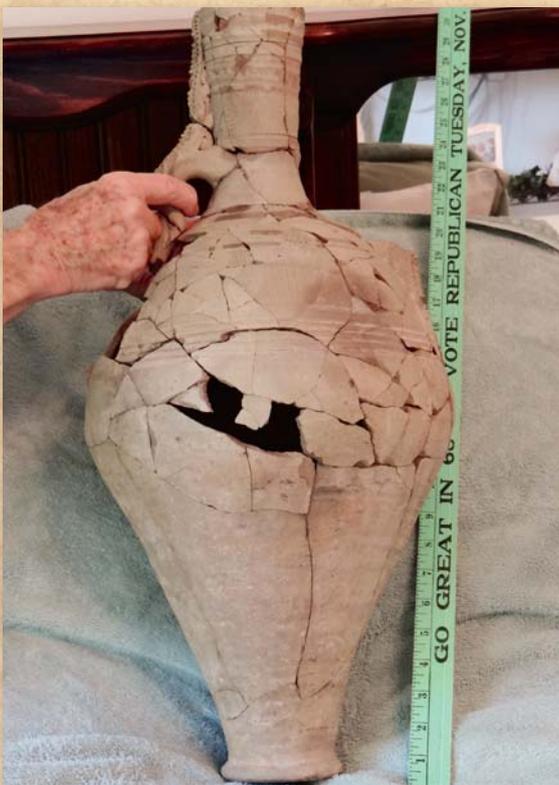
Cape spent time with Aramcon John Gasparetti in the kingdom in the 1990s. In fact, Gasparetti, who is deceased, discovered the cannonball in the Jiddah area and he and Cape found the grinder in the Taif area.

John Nelson returned a pristine collection of stone tools and arrowheads. "These were given to me in about 1987 by a second-generation Italian expatriate named Enzo Brezio," wrote Nelson, who joined Aramco with his wife Judy in 1979 and retired in 1994.

"They came from a rather extensive collection his family made from the 1950s into the 1980s. Most of their camping and collecting [took place] in the Eastern Province. The arrowheads are very nice and should be included in a Neolithic exhibit."



Clockwise from left: Retiree John Nelson donated several sets of pristine stone tools, including arrowheads and scrapers, received from Italian expatriate Enzo Brezio. Susan Hobbs donated items such as beads, a ring and a ceramic camel head. Among the items donated by Jerry Cape, the father of Aramcon Tina Pakka, was a clay pot he found when he worked for the U.S. Geological Survey in western Saudi Arabia.



DOC ENGINEERS *Dream* in 193-COUNTRY ODYSSEY



By DR. RICHARD BIRRER

In

November 2015, two years after leaving Saudi Aramco, I found myself sitting at the 1953 Armistice desk in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea. I had reached the site via China and North Korea, the latter marking the end of an odyssey: a project to visit all 193 of the world's countries that had gelled after I joined Saudi Aramco as executive director of the Medical Services Organization in 2009.

Sitting in the DMZ, thinking of all the places I'd been, I felt my own achievement dwarfed by our small, great world.

I could not easily have accomplished my quest without the impetus and opportunities provided by my time with Saudi Aramco. In Saudi Arabia, I took advantage of the chance to explore by car, camel and camping on quiet weekends, and to discuss with my colleagues and friends the places they had visited. Executive Safety Reviews took me to all sectors

of the kingdom, providing insights into its culture and history.

I soon realized that my new home could serve as a launching pad to many of the countries I hadn't seen before. (The list already stood at 100-plus when my wife Christina and I arrived in Dhahran.) I carefully mapped out a plan to capitalize on the kingdom's strategic location, optimizing long weekends and holidays to notch up new destinations.

Not all those who wander are lost.

—JRR TOLKIEN

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts.

—MARK TWAIN

There were two daunting challenges: flights and visas. After a few months of arranging those I could have qualified as a first-class travel agent! I discovered a number of airlines to avoid, like Busy Bee Congo, Air Koryo, Merpati, Yeti, Daallo, Africa, TransNusa and others that had been banned or had restrictions attached by the Federal Aviation Administration or the European Union.

Opposite: "Riding the rails" in a rusty Hijaz Railroad locomotive at Madain Salih was one of the slowest trips Rich Birrer took on his global odyssey.

POKEMON SPECIAL

I also found carriers that with safer claims to fame: the colorful Pokemon Special flown by Japan's All Nippon Airways; South Africa's Kulula Airline—a never-ending "comedy hour"; and VietJet, with its bikini-clad stewardesses.

As to visas, my diplomatic passport—acquired through my status as an Air Force reservist—helped a great deal and served as double security with my regular passport. Still, I was well into nation #140 (Equatorial Africa in 2010) before I realized that I could possibly visit them all.

I was able to access easily countries such as Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Jordan, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and the Seychelles. Others, like the "stans"—Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan—in Central Asia were a little trickier to reach because there were no direct flights from Saudi Arabia.

The greatest challenges came in arranging visits to remote countries in the Pacific Basin, such as Micronesia, Melanesia and the Society Islands, and



The author and his wife Christina pose in 2014 in front the Orango crater at Rapa Nui (Easter Island) in the Pacific—one of the more out-of-the-way places on Earth. The lake, long held to be bottomless, is covered with mini-islands of grass.

off-the-tourist-route nations in Africa. There were also countries that were generally politically off limits, such as Libya, Iraq, Somalia, Syria and Angola. Many required multiple connecting flights on unreliable carriers with uncertain schedules. However, I only missed a flight or found a flight canceled—or simply nonexistent—on two occasions.

I learned that taking a circular itinerary, rather than retracing my steps, was the most efficient, cost-effective way to go. Carrying camping equipment and food with me also saved time and enhanced mobility. Many a beach or wooded area

served as a "wayside inn" along my routes. I never felt lonely, even though I was very much alone.

My love of exploring began as a child growing up on a farm in rural New Jersey where I got lost in the woods several times. But it wasn't until my late 20s, after medical school, marriage and joining the Air Force, that I stepped into a plane and ventured beyond nearby states. During three years in the Air Force in Greece, my wife, who had never traveled either, and I used the military transport system to visit a variety of European countries.

After that, we spent 20 years raising our children, Richard, Jr., Chris and Danielle, whom we introduced to the world with yearly treks to foreign lands. By the time they entered college they had visited 20 countries, all of the United States (and written *Climbing Across America, A Family Guide to Highpointing the 50 States*), while I'd taken up mountaineering on all seven continents. My medical work and service in the Air Force Reserves enabled me to add to my list of countries so that by 2005 I had visited nearly 100.



In 2010 Rich and his son, Richard, Jr., summited Mt. Everest, where they unfurled the Saudi Aramco banner. Everest was the last of the Seven Summits—the tallest peaks on each continent—topped by father (left) and son.



Two spots on the globe could hardly be more different. Above: Rich and Christina Birrer navigate the Zambezi River below Victoria Falls between Zimbabwe and Zambia. She's holding on at the center as Rich paddles madly to her left. "I was trying to save us from going under," he recalls, adding that rafting there was "both exhilarating and dangerous. Many a croc had watchful eyes awaiting a tasty meal." Left: The Rub' al-Khali in the southern Arabian Peninsula was a much more peaceful venue for the intrepid travelers.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Staying with families was a highlight of many of my journeys, whether in a yurt in the Gobi Desert, a *palapa* (tiki hut) in Vanuatu, a treehouse in Liberia, a turf home in Greenland, a pile house in New Guinea or a cave in Turkey's Cappadocia (with a few scorpions as fellow guests).

The local cuisine was remarkably good wherever I went, though often so exotic it would have challenged the likes of Anthony Bourdain and Andrew Zimmern: chicken feet and combs, whole opossum, iguana, sea slugs, insects, worms and amphibians—all welcome after a regime of trail mix. Hunger cures a lot of indecision.

Periodically getting lost turned out to be beneficial, though sometimes unnerving. There are still many places on the planet thankfully untouched by Google and cell phones, where map-

reading, compass and orienteering skills pay off.

But the most important knack is knowing how to communicate with locals. During a sojourn to West Africa, I planned to land in Lagos, Nigeria, and then travel overland to Benin, Togo, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. Transportation was primitive: no trains, limited taxis, buses whose schedules didn't mesh across countries and a variety of free-wheeling, essentially lawless motorcycle-taxis or minibuses.

I had to negotiate each country leg when crossing its border. Sometimes I found someone who spoke (often broken) English. Other times, I would simply hop onto a minibus and be driven, sardined, for what seemed an eternity along hot, dusty roads until I finally arrived at my destination.

During several treks elsewhere (Moldova, Serbia, Libya and Georgia) I was followed by some seedy characters. My military background came in handy by way of diversion and elusion. Though I was never robbed or assaulted, I would

certainly recommend travelling with a companion in countries designated as unsafe, and women should be especially careful.

Surprises, good and bad, keep travelers on their toes. Once, on a trip that started in Andorra, I found myself at the running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, to the west. I'd scoped out the route in detail, but was not prepared for the gaggle of young adults staggering around when the bulls came through. The result required some volunteer emergency care on my part.

In 2010, I went back to Mt. Everest in Nepal to make good the 2005 ascent I'd left unfinished due to bad weather that resulted in the death of one of my tent mates. My son Richard came along and together that May we completed our ascent of the last of the Seven Summits, the tallest mountains on each continent.

'REVERSE GLOBALISM'

Since returning home to Long Island, N.Y., in 2013, I have become acutely aware of "reverse globalism"—retrenchment into isolationism and nationalism. This, of course, has had a negative effect on travel.

I would be remiss if I did not call out the most remarkable aspect of my global tour: Even in the face of rising fanaticism, restive geopolitics and natural disasters, I've found that people are largely the same wherever I go: mostly altruistic and caring to the wayfarer.

I have witnessed first-hand the generosity of the common man and woman in many places in the world. The poorest are often the most generous and I only hope I've given back a little of what those nameless "friends" have given me.

Although the average Aramcon is an experienced traveler, I would still offer a few pointers about making a trip safe, wherever you're going these days. Check with the International Air Transport Association (www.iata.org), as well as the Department of State, U.S. Passports and International Travel (www.travel.state.org), before departing to avoid potential problems.

Even then, difficulties can crop up. For instance, after seeing Lake Chad and nearby N'Djamena in 2011, Chadian authorities decided not to honor my passport and deported me, even though

all available information indicated that my diplomatic passport was sufficient. In such cases, keep cool and know how to seek assistance from your embassy or consulate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Travel as lightly as possible unless you're on a well-orchestrated guided tour. To minimize security screening, Customs red tape and possible losses, limiting luggage to a carry-on is best. Still, you may be held up in places like North Korea and Bhutan where there is a list of prohibited materials.

Book an aisle seat up front whenever possible to save valuable time deplaning. Dress down and blend in as much as possible with the local population. Ask permission before taking photos if you are in doubt. I did not take any pictures in North Korea, but several fellow travelers did and were disciplined.

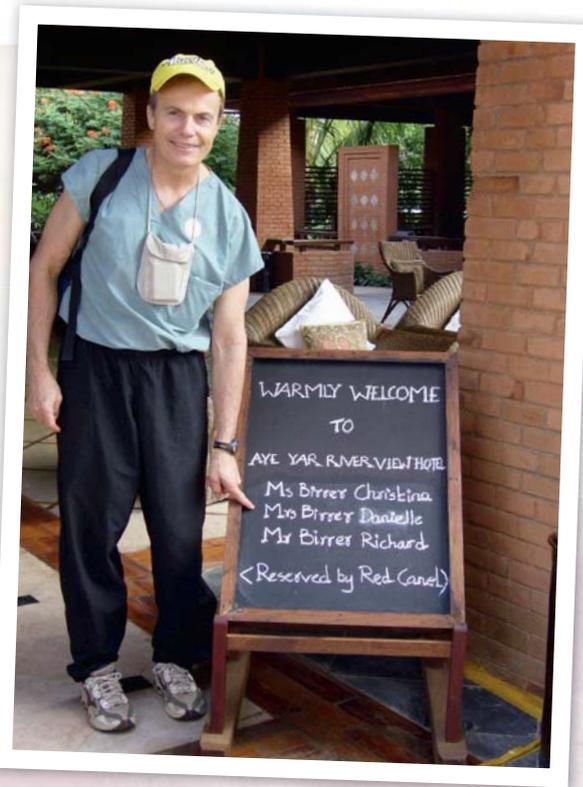
Be careful of what you eat. As a physician proficient in travel medicine, I avoid fruits and vegetables that are not washed in clean water and peeled, and I check the seal before drinking

bottled water.

Knowing what medical help is available in the countries you plan to visit and purchasing insurance if you have a chronic illness are good ideas. Take two supplies of required medications in case one is lost. Make sure your vaccinations are up-to-date and take prophylactic medication (anti-malaria or altitude) where appropriate.

Finally, keep in mind that the major cause of death, particularly in developing countries, is not infection, dehydration or food poisoning. It is trauma to a pedestrian or motorist in a traffic accident.

From a health perspective there is good evidence that travel enhances curiosity and creativity, strengthens problem-solving skills, increases energy levels, improves heart health, significantly reduces stress levels and brings overall happiness. So, keep on trekking.



Above: The Aye Yar Riverview Hotel in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, welcomed Rich and Christina Birrer and daughter Danielle in 2004. Below: The Birrers got excellent views of Vientiane in 2008 from their perches in a jeepney, "a common, inexpensive, although hazardous way of getting around in Laos," says Rich.



VETERAN
RECALLS

GOLDEN AGE *of* PROJECT MANAGEMENT

by FRED BLANCHARD





Above left: Inspectors check 56-inch and 60-inch pipe sections for a dual pipeline from the Gulf to North Ghawar area in 1975. The largest-diameter land pipeline ever built by Aramco, it carried treated seawater 65 miles for injection to maintain field pressure. Above right: Roustabouts work on a Ghawar field well in 1972. The company completed 176 wells that year, an average of one every 2.1 days.

In the late 1960s Aramco was about to embark on the largest expansion in its history, aiming to boost oil-production capacity several times over the then-current 4 million barrels per day (BPD) within 15 years. The initiative was ambitious to say the least, considering that the company had taken nearly 30 years to achieve 4 million BPD.

That task—Aramco’s “moonshot”—would require a massive dose of project management.

Project management was not new to the company’s U.S. shareholders: Socal, Exxon, Texaco and Mobil had employed the practice for many years to expand their fixed production and distribution facilities. But it was novel to Aramco, which had settled into its niche of oil exploration and production and was organized on a totally functional basis.

Implementing the system required the establishment of an organization dedicated to executing a project within a fixed budget and specific timetable, turning it over to the operators and putting itself out of business. Many at Aramco were eager to adopt the concept, so they rolled up their sleeves and got to it, anticipating the hiccups inherent

Pipeline construction was a key part of Project Management’s program to increase oil-production capacity beginning in the early ’70s. Here a field surveyor directs a crew setting the foundations for a pipeline in the Southern Area.

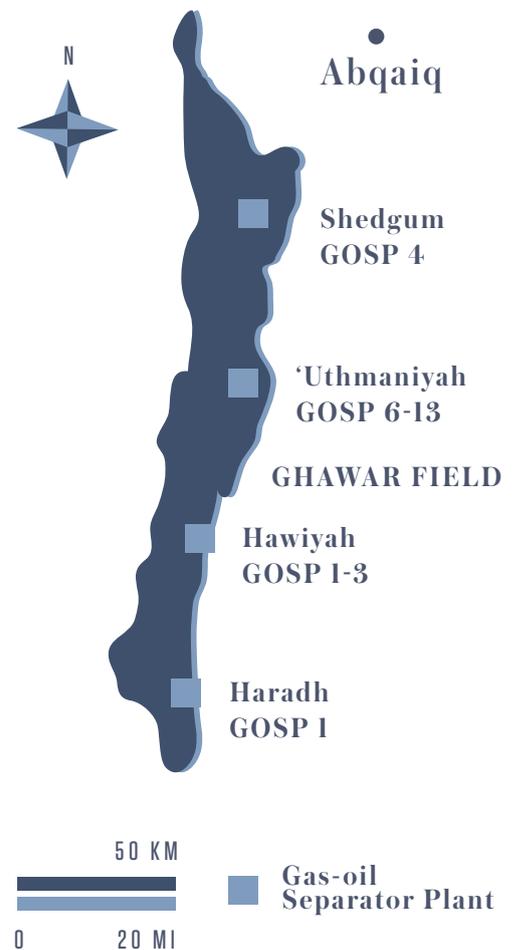
in attempting anything new.

Project Management formally began in 1972, with Frank Fugate the first manager. The Construction divisions he had previously managed in Dhahran, Abqaiq and Ras Tanura were reorganized as separate departments to handle the anticipated additional work associated with the projects. Fugate was succeeded by Hal Streaker in 1973 and became senior vice president of Project Management and Construction later in the decade.

In the early ’70s, capacity-expansion work already in the planning-and-design and engineering phases was incorporated into four projects: the Southern Area expansion (SAE), focusing on the Ghawar field; the new crude terminal at Ju’aymah, north of Ras Tanura; the expansion of natural gas liquids (NGL) facilities in Abqaiq and Ras Tanura; and the Berri gas-oil separation plant (GOSP).

I was new on the block, having joined Aramco in 1971, but I already had significant project-management experience and received responsibility for the SAE, the largest, most complex project. Paul Clark, who had NGL and engineering experience at Ras Tanura, was assigned the NGL plants at Abqaiq and Ras

SOUTHERN AREA PROJECT





Volume XI, No. 6 — Published by
Aramco Services Company, Houston, Texas

THE ARABIAN SUN

JUNE 1980

Aramco Review of 1979 Operations Cites Record Oil, NGL Production

Aramco's 1979 Review of Operations, released May 16, reported record production of both crude oil and natural gas liquids for the year.

The company's crude oil production for the year was 2.28 billion barrels, an average of 5,203,078 barrels per day. Production of natural gas liquids from operations associated with crude oil production reached 115.7 million barrels, an increase of more than 51 percent over 1978. Aramco is the world's largest exporter of crude oil and natural gas liquids.

As reported, according to the report, Aramco's proved oil reserves were 114.4 billion barrels, while probable reserves, which include the proved figures, were given as 171.8 billion barrels.

The report announced the discovery of five new oil fields — Dakh, Farafah, Zark and Hamra, and a new oil field, Hadaw, during 1979, was confirmed as a commercial discovery. A new deep-sea oil reservoir and two new deep-sea oil reservoirs were also found in older fields.

Aramco's work force increased by 25 percent to more than 38,000, the majority of whom were Saudi Arabs, the report said. Saudi Arab employees held 49 percent of the company's employment positions.

The company also reported on the progress of the master gas program which Aramco is building and operating for the Saudi Arab Government. Completion of the facilities at Shuqba and Ju'aymah is well advanced and is expected to be completed in 1980. The 1,375-kilometer East-West Natural

Gas Liquids Pipeline moved ahead on schedule.

Aramco is also building and managing the Saudi Consolidated Electric Company's power generation, transmission and distribution program in the Eastern Province and reported that installed generation capacity increased by about 37 percent during the year to nearly 1,100 megawatts.

The 1979 Review of Operations will not be routinely made to those on our mailing lists, but will be sent to anyone requesting a copy.

Send your request to:
Mr. S. W. Kunking
Aramco Services Company
1100 Milan
Houston, TX 77002



Refinery progress returns at Shuqba Gas Plant.

Glenn Billman Heads Long-Range Planning

The Planning Organization has announced the appointment of Glenn W. Billman as manager of Long-Range Planning effective May 5. In this capacity, Billman will be responsible for the development of the Corporate Business Plan.

Billman comes to Aramco from Standard Oil Company of California where he was manager, Operations Planning and Analysis, Marketing. He joined Rock's Engineering and Architecture, Marketing. He joined Rock's Engineering and Architecture, Marketing. He joined Rock's Engineering and Architecture, Marketing.



GLENN W. BILLMAN
(See "Billman," Page 8)



Work progress on the high-pressure, computer-controlled East-West NGL Pipeline.

Above: Workers at the Shuqba Gas Plant build the foundation for a chilldown module, with a demethanizer tower looming above them, in 1977. Left: In June 1980, *The Arabian Sun* featured the nearly complete plant in a story about 1979 accomplishments, including record oil and NGL production.

flowlines from wells, pipelines to carry new oil to final gas-oil separation facilities (spheroids) in Abqaiq and power lines to electrify the new plants.

The work was ticketed to add some 2.8 million BPD of oil production and 6.15 million BPD of water injection. Extending the project to the 'Ain Dar and Hawiyah areas of Ghawar added nearly 1 million BPD of oil production. Overall, that almost doubled total Southern Area capacity. At the peak of work, we were building a new GOSP nearly every six months.

Drilling proceeded rapidly under the watchful eye of George Covey, reaching a completion rate of just 11 to 13 days.

All this required close coordination with operations and maintenance personnel, work overseen by Ali I. Al-Naimi, superintendent of Abqaiq Producing, who would become president and CEO of Saudi Aramco, and minister of Petroleum and Mineral

Resources. At the time, he reported to Hal Streaker, manager of Abqaiq Producing.

The new terminal at Ju'aymah, north of Ras Tanura, was required to handle the increased production. Huge, 500,000-dead-weight-ton (DWT) oil tankers were plying the seas and 1-million-DWT behemoths were on the drawing boards. Ras Tanura Terminal, where the first Saudi crude oil was loaded into a tanker (with an 81,000-barrel capacity) in 1939, had neither the storage space for new production nor the water depth to accommodate the

Tanura, and Dick Lee, a Social loanee, was assigned the Ju'aymah Terminal. Hank Baracano, who had come to Aramco from an electric utility and had a working knowledge of project management, became project manager for the Berri GOSP.

The SAE initially consisted of 17 plants, including nine GOSPs (all but one a 300,000-BPD facility) and the water-injection plants required to maintain field pressure. With the GOSPs came associated



The East-West NGL Pipeline linked Shedgum in the Eastern Province to Yanbu' on the Red Sea. The pipeline is unique in that it has just one pump station for its entire length.

The NGL fractionation plant at Yanbu', at the heart of Yanbu' Industrial City on the Red Sea, was a key facility in the Master Gas Program. It supplies petrochemical feedstock and liquefied petroleum gas for export and local industrial consumption.



giant tankers to load it.

To tackle the problem, Aramco initially turned the *F. A. Davies*, a 250,000-DWT tanker, into an offshore storage vessel that “topped off” large tankers that had partially loaded at Ras Tanura. This work came under the purview of Dick Lee.

The NGL facilities at Abqaiq and Ras Tanura were required to handle gas produced with crude oil, most of which had previously been flared. This practice ultimately ended with the implementation of the Master Gas Program (MGP) in the mid-1970s, led by Paul Clark as vice president of Project Management.

The Berri project was a unique facet of the expansion effort for two reasons. It was undertaken to demonstrate the benefits of project management and to process ultra-light (low-sulfur) crude oil, catering to growing global demand for that high-quality, high-value commodity. Berri was the company's only ultra-light oil field at the time.

All four projects were completed by the end of 1974, justifying the confidence placed in Project Management and the Aramcons involved in it.

The work had its ups and downs.

On the upside was the ability to bring a 300,000-bpd GOSP on stream in just six months. On the downside were the growing pains normal for new ventures, including materials bottlenecks and manpower shortages. With the first four projects under our belts, and with experienced managers like Fugate and Streaker and men like Al-Naimi and Nassir Al-Ajmi on the operations-services side, we felt we were up to new challenges.

Many other Saudi and foreign employees played vital roles in the effort, participating directly on project teams or in support functions in their departments. A good number, such as Abdullah Al-Ghanem, Sa'ud Al-Ashgar and Abdallah Jumah, went on to executive positions. My clerk, Abdullah Al-Otaibi, also benefited from his Project Management experience, becoming superintendent of administration for the Southern Area. Now retired in Hofuf, he kiddingly dubbed me the “Shaikh of Ghawar.”

Project management played a critical role in the success of the MGP. Designed to capture virtually all of Aramco's associated gas and convert it into sales gas and feedstock, it was the largest project ever carried out by a single energy company. It required the construction of gas-gathering

facilities at all the GOSPs and pipelines to move the gas to processing-and-distribution facilities.

Aramco could not have succeeded in this gargantuan project without significant help from local businessmen, many who had started their careers with Aramco and some who had participated in the first four projects. They provided a steady flow of equipment and materials, as well as construction resources.

Among them were Ali Tamimi, Abdullah Fouad, Abdullah Shuwayer, Saud Shafi, Suleiman Olayan, Khalid Turki and Mohamed Mojil. Today their successors maintain their legacy with Saudi Aramco.

The initial scope of work called for building major plants to liquefy the gas, remove sulfur and send it to an NGL terminal. The plants were at Safaniya, Shedgum, 'Uthmaniyah and Ju'aymah in the Eastern Province and Yanbu' on the Red Sea; the Ju'aymah, and Yanbu' projects included NGL terminals. The scope was so huge that it was initially decided to defer the Safaniya and Yanbu' plants. It was not too long before the program was extended to accommodate them.

The Yanbu' NGL plant and the cross-country pipeline that served it were the first large facilities built by the company outside the Eastern Province. I moved from the Project Construction Services Dept. to head that effort, assisted by Dick Lee, Peter Voorbrood from Aramco Overseas Company in The Hague and Frank Barrett,



Workers place sections of the East-West NGL Pipeline in the mountains of western Saudi Arabia. The pipeline, linking gas-production and -processing facilities in the Eastern Province to the west coast, is the longest and most advanced of its kind.



Bernhard Morse, Harmaliyah GOSP-1 project manager, second from right, confers with Safar Yahyah, GOSP superintendent, center, at the turnover of the facility to the Producing Dept. in 1973.

CATCHING SAND VIPERS *at* HARMALIYAH

"I was given a budget, no manpower and told to build Harmaliyah GOSP-1 with power lines and pipelines as quickly as possible," recalls Harmaliyah Project Manager Bernhard Morse.

"Harmaliyah is about two-three hours south of 'Udhailiyah. No roads, only a sandy track," says Morse, now happily retired in Norway. "I hired a small management team and with help of our colleagues in The Hague we built and were producing oil in 10 months [in 1973]."

"It was necessary to build an air-strip and a camp for the Project Man-

agement team and the contractor. I had a construction manager on site, along with a pipeline and powerline inspector and I flew in every week from Dhahran.

"Our major problems were *shamals* or just plain sand blowing. The pipeline welders were on the job at about 3 a.m. and stopped at about 9-10 a.m. when the winds began. It was impossible to protect the welders from the blowing sand."

"All went well," says Morse. "The men were very professional and did not mind the isolation. I remember one of my staff enjoyed collecting venomous sand vipers in his spare time."

agement. The first was to build housing and catering facilities for all the foreign workers on the project. This enabled Aramco to advance the construction start by not waiting for a contractor to be selected and mobilized and then build its own facilities. The high-standard camps that the company provided also boosted worker morale and productivity.

The blueprints for that part of the MGP, along with those for the construction of company-owned and -operated concrete plants, were adapted from the execution plan for the Alyaska Pipeline, built to link North Slope oil to a port in southern Alaska in the mid-1970s.

Aramco built five camps with a combined capacity of more than 35,000 workers and over 800 families. Mike Ladah led the design team in Las Vegas and Ali Baluchi, manager of Community Services, played a key role in operating the facilities. The camps proved so successful that the government adopted the strategy to develop the industrial cities of Jubail and Yanbu'.

Incidental to the program was the construction of two self-contained accommodation barges for use at Ju'aymah. We later used the barges, housing 3,000 men, at Yanbu' and a new project at Tanajib.

Stationing the barges at Yanbu' brought culinary pleasure to an otherwise stressful job. The Korean workers living in the offshore accommodations discovered they could harvest lobsters in the shallow waters around their quarters, and they provided a cooler of crustaceans whenever I was returning from a trip to the site. Sadly, my

a Social loanee. Harry Donaldson managed construction of the 623-mile pipeline from Shedgum to Yanbu' and Saleh Redaini led the pipeline-engineering effort from Aramco Services Company in Houston. The pipeline is unique in that it has only one pump station for its entire length.

The MGP employed two innovations that were new even to ever-evolving project man-

This five-story construction barge, built in Japan, was one of two that housed contractor construction workers at Ju'aymah, Yanbu' and Tanajib, relieving pressure on land-based housing.



King Khalid ibn Abdulaziz, center, inaugurated the Ju'aymah NGL Fractionation Plant and Marine Export Terminal in 1980. To his left in the control room are Prince Abdullah, Prince Sultan and Prince Mit'ab.

source dried up when local Saudi fishermen discovered that the lobsters could be sold in Jiddah to restaurants catering to westerners.

The second innovation came about when the MGP and the government's program to develop Jubail and Yanbu' into industrial cities coincided. The resulting flood of materials overtaxed the cargo-handling capacity at Dammam Port, tying up vessels for as long as six months and costing millions of dollars in demurrage. In response, the company developed a plan to build separate barge ports; upon their completion around 1977 ships could unload cargoes onto barges that were towed to temporary facilities at Ju'aymah and near Half Moon Bay.

The crude-expansion project and the MGP put additional pressure on offshore-servicing facilities at Safaniya and Ras Tanura, where expansion was geographically constrained. This spawned a bevy of projects to develop a new support facility and associated plants to process oil and gas from the Northern Area fields. These were combined into what became the Northern Area Projects Dept. and included Tanajib, a community built on the Gulf coast with facilities including housing for more than 3,000 men and an airfield long enough to handle the Boeing 737 shuttle aircraft.



I undertook responsibility for the projects there late in 1979, while Peter Voorbrood took over the completion of Yanbu' facilities. My move "back east" came with the promotion to general manager of Northern Area Projects.

Bobby Alexander was project manager for the expansion of the Marjan and Zuluf offshore fields in the Gulf during the Iran-Iraq War. Fortunately, the conflict never affected us.

This golden era of Project Management came to an end in the mid-1980s when consumers took a breath after the rapid expansion of industry worldwide in the 1970s and low oil prices led to a temporary suspension of mega-projects. The oil-expansion effort and the MGP had been completed, as had facilities at Tanajib. Additional GOSPs nearing completion in the Marjan and Zuluf fields were mothballed. We had spent long but enjoyable hours—a total of 10 years, often six days a week—creating monuments to man's ingenuity, perseverance and guile.

I am gratified by Saudi Aramco's continued growth and grateful to have participated in the challenging tasks that helped lay the groundwork for the company's continued success.

The fact that Project Manage-

ment played a part in training today's Saudi workforce is the icing on the "cake" of our legacy. I apologize to the many coworkers I have not named in this story—a list that would dwarf my meager effort to recall this unique era in the history of the company.

I'm often asked if I would like to relive my adventurous life. "Of course," I want to say. But I would never deny the current generation of Saudis the thrill of achievement and the opportunity of teaching the skills of project management to their successors. They have proved themselves capable of that many times over, and the company has more than compensated me and my colleagues for our efforts by giving us the comfortable retirement we enjoy and the opportunity to reflect on what we accomplished.

NOTE: The author joined Aramco after managing projects in the United States, India, Iraq, Iran and the Dominican Republic. He retired in 1985 after 14 years with the company, going on to publish a book on project management and earn a Ph.D. at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After one more stint in the kingdom, serving as executive vice president and chief operating officer for a private construction firm from 1994-95, he retired again to rejoin his wife of 60 years, Barbara, in Brunswick, Maine.



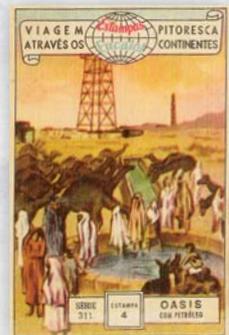
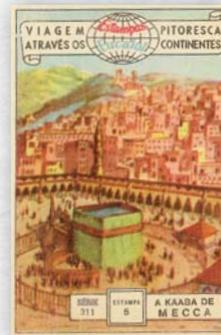
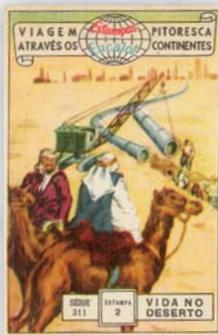
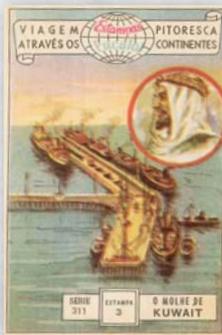
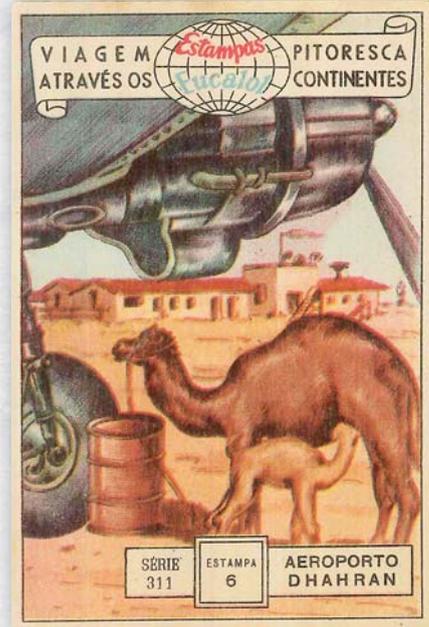
Looking back fondly: Author Fred Blanchard met his old Project Management friend and coworker Abdullah Al-Otaibi—who nicknamed him the "Shaikh of Ghawar"—when he returned to the kingdom for the Expatriates Reunion in 2015.

SOAP COMPANY CARD

PORTRAYED

FLYING CAMEL

BY ARTHUR CLARK



Six colorful collector's cards depicting Arabian Peninsula scenes, including the Dhahran Airport with Aramco's "Flying Camel" parked in front, have been turned up by *AramcoWorld* Editor Richard Doughty.

He bought the five-inch-by-two-inch cards at the booth of a trading-card dealer at a Middle East Studies Assn. conference in San Diego.

"The moment I saw the cards I thought they should be in the hands of someone in the company," Doughty said. "I was curious about where they came from, of course."

Five cards show Saudi scenes and the sixth shows Kuwait's crude-oil loading terminal. The Dhahran Airport card bears an uncanny resemblance to an Aramco photo shot in 1948, with dromedaries replacing a mechanic under the propeller.

Aramco bought "The Flying Camel," a DC-4 Skymaster, in 1947. The first flight

from Dhahran to New York, via Beirut, Rome and the Azores, took place in April that year.

The cards were part of an advertising campaign by the Brazilian soap-maker Eucalol, dating back

to 1930. They came in the soap packaging.

Eucalol made 2,400 cards showing everything from TV celebrities to folk dances over a 27-year period. Among them were educational sets called "Pictorial Travels Around the Continents," which included Saudi Arabia.

The Arabian Peninsula was featured in 1957, the last year cards were made. As well as the Dhahran Airport, the cards show a map of the kingdom as part of the South Asian landscape, pipeline construction, an oasis with an oil rig, and the Ka'aba.

Eucalol soap, made from eucalyptus leaves, "was not much appreciated by consumers because of its green color," says the blog "My Antique Toys." Poor sales pushed the company to find a catchy way to attract

The Flying Camel, at top, towers over a camel and her calf on one of a half-dozen collector's cards with Arabian scenes packaged by a Brazilian soap-maker in 1947.

buyers, who were used to "the white and pink colors...used by most perfume companies for their soap."

The company's owners first commissioned poetry about soap. When that didn't work, they packaged color prints with their soap, knowing that artwork was popular in Europe.

"The Prints Eucalol quickly became a big hit among children and adults and soap sales boosted the company's growth," says the blog. In 1932, the owners changed the company's name to Perfumery Myrta SA, which is shown on the back of the cards with a description of the picture.

All the Saudi cards but the one depicting the Ka'aba touch on oil. The Dhahran Airport caption speaks of the "glaring irony" in the two types of transportation shown in the picture. "At the airport in Dhahran," the card reads, "a large plane of the 'Arabian Oil Company,' called the 'Flying Camel,' is refueled at the same time as its small rival of ancient times."

IN MEMORIAM

HAROLD D. AMOS

February 19, 2017

He worked for Aramco for three years beginning in the late 1970s. Survived by his sons Timothy and Robert, daughters Shirley Ballard and Linda Willieford, stepsons James, David, Jimmy and Larry White, and stepdaughter Peggy Patterson. The family may be contacted c/o Greggton United Methodist Church, 1101 Pinetree Rd., Longview, TX 75604.

MICHAEL A. BANVILLE

July 15, 2016

He joined Aramco in 1974, retiring as Aviation Dept. assistant superintendent in 1995. He served as a Little League coach. Survived by his wife Lynn, daughter Cristine Vassar and son James. The family may be contacted c/o Funeraria Del Angel Kammann, 795 W. 28th St., Yuma, AZ 85364.

ROBERT W. BARRETT

February 2, 2017

He worked as an instrument technician from 1974 until the early 1980s. Survived by his wife Betty, sons Robert, Jr. and Randall, and stepson Tommy Sablatura. The family may be contacted c/o BridgePoint Bible Church, 13277 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77079.

JAMES R. BARTEE

January 10, 2017

He worked for the Dhahran Utilities Dept. for 30 years. Survived by Alexa, Aaron and Linda Esposito, and Kimberly and Natalie Bartee.

WAYNE J. BOLLAN

March 9, 2016

He joined Aramco in 1978 and retired in 2008. Survived by his wife Lek and children Robert, Katherine and Angela. Correspondence may be sent to Nonglux Bollan, 311 John Henry Dr., Henderson, NV 89014.

ANTHONY "BOB" BRAUTOVICH

September 25, 2016

He was coordinator of out-of-Kingdom training in the United States from the late 1950s through 1977, initially in the New York office. He transferred to Houston when Aramco Services Company moved there in 1974, retir-

ing as manager of Industrial Relations in 1986. Survived by his son Bob and daughter Linda Johnson. Correspondence may be sent to Bob at robertanthony88@yahoo.com.

E. CURTIS BROWN

December 27, 2016

He practiced dermatology at the Dhahran Health Center for six years in the 1980s. Survived by his sons Chris, Bryan and Scott, and daughter Cindi Aston.

JAMES L. BURCHETT

January 11, 2017

He worked in Project Management from 1973-85. Survived by his wife Donna and daughters Lisa DeCoster and Candace Rosu. Correspondence may be sent to Donna at burchet@swbell.net.

R. L. "SAM" CARSTENS

August 1, 2016

He worked as engineer from 1954-61. Survived by his son Michael, stepsons Lloyd DeMoss and Ron Jordan, and stepdaughters Sheila Burdett and Janis Coss. The family may be contacted c/o First United Methodist Church, 516 Kellogg Ave., Ames, IA 50010.

GLENN E. CRABTREE

September 20, 2016

A former Aramco Services Company employee, he is survived by his wife Kathy, daughter Stacy Koscinski and sons Lance and Travis. The family may be contacted c/o Brookside Funeral Home, 13747 Eastex Freeway, Houston, TX 77039.

PETER J. DAWSON

January 7, 2017

He joined Aramco in 1974 and retired in 1999. He served as a soccer and baseball coach. Survived by his wife Helen, sons Alexis and Mark, and daughter Sarah Hockenberry. The family may be contacted c/o Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust Charitable Fund, Whielden St., Amersham HP7 0JD, England.

DEREK M. EDWARDS

January 12, 2017

He worked as an engineer. Survived by his wife Joyce, son Bruce and daughter Frances Smyth. The family may be contacted c/o Smith's Funeral Home,

485 Brant St., Burlington, ON L7R 2G5, Canada.

MARY JANE ERWIN

October 2, 2016

She taught kindergarten in Abqaiq. Survived by her sons James and Jesse, who may be contacted c/o Dayspring United Methodist Church, 1365 E. Elliot Rd., Tempe, AZ 85284.

DONALD "DON" FISHER

January 12, 2017

He joined Aramco in the mid-1950s, working in the New York office and Saudi Arabia. Survived by his wife Barbara and children Carl Fisher, Therese M. Shaffer, Kristina M. Knox, Grace M. Lintner, Valerie M. Fisher and Dierdre M. Fisher. The family may be contacted c/o Koch Funeral Home, 2401 S. Ather-ton St., State College, PA 16801.

GORDON K. FLOM

October 10, 2016

He joined Aramco in 1969 and retired in 1990. Survived by his wife Lois and daughter Kristin.

HAROLD R. HIROMS

September 15, 2016

He worked as an electrical supervisor in Abqaiq from 1976-82, and rejoined the company from 1989-2000. Survived by his wife Geneva and son Michael. The family may be contacted c/o Bastrop Providence Funeral Home, 2079 Highway 71 East, Bastrop, TX 78602.

MAHMOOD HUSSAIN

May 13, 2016

He joined Aramco 1974 and retired as a lab scientist in 2006. Survived by his wife Kaniz Fatima, sons Imran, Kamran, Adnan and Irfan, and daughters Sumaira and Nazia. Correspondence may be sent to Kamran at kamran.hussain19@gmail.com.

RUTH G. INGHAM

December 1, 2016

Predeceased by her husband Leonard. She taught art in Abqaiq and Ras Tanura and was a swimming coach in Ras Tanura. Survived by her daughters Linda Rummel and Claudia Ingham, and son Lee. The family may be contacted at RGoldenIngTrust@gmail.com.

MERVIN R. IVERSON

February 4, 2017

He worked as an administrator at the Aramco Schools from 1980-85. Survived by his wife Sherie and children Kerry, Darin, Bradley, Jeff and Shawn. The family may be contacted c/o LDS Stake Center, 375 N. Hollywood Blvd., Las Vegas, NY 89110.

VIRGINIA (COBB) JOINER

March 16, 2016

She joined Aramco as a registered nurse in 1957 and worked in Dhahran and Ras Tanura. Predeceased by her husband, Aviation Dept. retiree Jaspas Joiner, and son Giles. Survived by her daughters Elizabeth Joiner and Judy Kramer. Correspondence may be sent to Elizabeth at ejoinermilem@gmail.com.

MAURICE ASHTON

“ASH” KEARNEY

November 5, 2016

He joined Aramco in 1950 and retired as Shedgum Gas Plant manager in 1981. He worked in Ras Tanura, Dhahran and Abqaiq. He also worked for Tapline in the mid-1960s in Beirut and Turaif. Survived by his wife Sonny, sons James and Stephan, and daughter Patricia McKellar. Correspondence may be sent to James at 2214 Bywater Dr., Houston, TX 77077.

HABIB NABI KHAN

February 2, 2017

He joined the company in 1955 and retired in 1985 as an accountant. Survived by his wife Farhat-Un-Nisa and children Khalid, Rashid and Farida. Correspondence may be sent to Dr. Farida Habib Khan at farihabib@gmail.com.

KAISER MAJID KHAN

March 28, 2017

He joined the company in 1979 and retired from the Tanajib Producing Dept. in 2007. Survived by his wife Razia Begum and children Tanveer, Juhaynah, Hasham and Saad. Correspondence may be sent to Hasham at khan.hash@icloud.com.

WOO UP “DANNY” KIM

November 7, 2016

He joined Aramco in 1982 and retired as the section head of the Data Management Div. in 2001. Survived by his wife Jaemin, and sons Daniel and Jason.

The family may be contacted c/o Peace Presbyterian Church, 1777 W. Chatham St., Cary, NC 27513.

DR. LESLIE F. MCCOY

Dec. 15, 2016

He joined the Medical Dept. in 1956 and departed in 1963 after serving as medical director in Abqaiq. Survived by his children, Les, Brian, David and Patty, and his companion Elinor Nichols, the widow of Dr. Roger Nichols, whom he joined nine years after the death of his wife Bettie. Correspondence may be sent to David at 126 129th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98005.

ANWAR MIRZA

September 7, 2016

He joined Aramco in 1975 and retired from the Drilling Dept. in 2002. Survived by his wife Maimonna Begum, sons Akhtar, Safdar and Afsar, and daughters Samina Qaseem, Rubina Mirza and Nagina Anwar. Correspondence may be sent to the family at anwar@mirza.ws.

ERNESTINE ELVING MITCHELL

February 24, 2017

She worked as a nurse at the Dhahran Health Center from 1964-74. Predeceased by her husband, Arnold Elving, and survived by her sons Arnold “Arch,” Jr. and Carl. Correspondence may be sent to the family P.O. Box 176, Newfoundland, PA 18445.

WILMER “WIL” MORGAN

November 23, 2016

He worked as a surveyor in the 1950s. Survived by his wife Rebecca, daughters Alisa Sansom and Michelle Brown, stepdaughter Sarah Fischer and stepson Gordon Buford. The family may be contacted c/o Emerald Bay Community Church, 160 La Salle Rd., Bullard, TX 75757.

ROBERT J. “BOB” MORROW

November 16, 2016

He joined Aramco in 1957 and retired as relief manager of Finance in 1986. Survived by his wife Harlene, the daughter of Aramcons Harlan and Edith Wilson, daughters Kris and Karen, and son Michael. Correspondence may be sent to Harlene at 3600 Flamevine Cove, Austin, TX 78735-1544; harmorrow@aol.com.

DR. PAUL B. MOSSMAN

July 31, 2016

Survived by his wife Ann and children, Carol, George, Donald and Vicky. The family may be contacted c/o Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, 4020 Lomas Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110.

LILYAN BENNETT MULVANEY

January 25, 2017

Survived by her husband Joe, who worked for Aramco from 1951-81. He may be contacted c/o Knight-Auchmoody Funeral Home, 154 E. Main St., Port Jervis, NY 12777.

LAURENE ANN OPDYKE

July 30, 2016

She worked as a nurse from 1980-85. Survived by her husband Richard, daughter Lisa Ann Salem and son William. Richard has established the Oklahoma City Community Foundation (OCCF) Laurene Ann Opdyke Nursing Scholarship in her memory. The family may be contacted c/o OCCF, P.O. Box 1146, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1146.

CLARENCE MELVIN PAINTER, JR.

September 7, 2016

He joined Aramco in 1974, worked in The Hague and Dhahran and retired in 1986. Survived by his children Trace, Emily Painter Davis, Jennifer Painter Feltes and Michael. He was an assistant scoutmaster and chief umpire of the Arabian Gulf Little League. The family may be contacted c/o Heights Funeral Home, 1317 Heights Blvd., Houston, TX 77008.

VINCENT “VINCE” PANTALEONI

January 6, 2017

He worked for Standard Oil of California in the late 1940s, transferring to New York when Aramco moved there in 1949. He moved to Saudi Arabia to complete a 32-year career. The family may be contacted c/o St. Clare's Church, 941 Lexington St., Santa Clara, CA 95050.

EUGENE BEECHER PERKINS

September 30, 2016

He worked as cartographer. The family may be contacted c/o O'Brien-Rogers & Crosby Funeral Home, 600 W. 2nd St. Reno, NV 89503.

ATEEQ UR REHMAN

March 4, 2017

He joined Aramco in 1965 and retired from the Planning and Forecast Dept. in 1985, and then headed the recruiting office in Karachi for a year. Survived by his wife Nazuk Jehan Begum and children Rashid, Tariq and Salwa. Correspondence may be sent to Tariq at info@machtradecorporation.com.

JOHN E. REISERT

October 16, 2016

He was a teacher. Survived by his wife Carolyn, son John and daughter Rebecca. The family may be contacted c/o St. Mark's United Church of Christ, 222 E. Spring St., New Albany, IN 47150.

WILLIAM B. RICH, JR.

December 29, 2016

He joined the Power Systems Technical Dept. in 1971 and worked in Dhahran and Yanbu', retiring in 1985 as a se-

nior project engineer. He later worked on an Aramco project at Bechtel Engineering in Houston. Survived by his daughter Lisa Hunter and son Stephen. Correspondence may be sent to Lisa at Lisahunter@hughes.net.

WILLIAM ROGERS III

March 11, 2017

He joined the Exploration organization in 1956 and retired as chief geologist in 1987. Survived by his wife Sandra, the daughter of Aramcons Lu and Ardelta Wood, and children Judd, Pam and Becky. Pam may be contacted at 505-660-0443.

LOIS ANN TAYLOR

February 2, 2017

Predeceased by her husband, Dr. Julius W. Taylor. Survived by her son Scott and daughter Sandra Taylor-Vose. The family may be contacted c/o The Alzheimer's Assn., Mas-

sachusetts/New Hampshire Chapter, 480 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472.

MILDRED TURNER

October 6, 2016

She was a secretary in Dhahran from 1947-49. Survived by her children Sara, Kevin and Kyle. The family may be contacted c/o Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 215 Mukilteo Blvd., Everett, WA 98203.

JOHANNA ULLMANN

March 25, 2017

Survived by her husband, retiree Richard "Dick" Ullmann, and children Richard, Elizabeth, Jennifer and Robert. Correspondence may be sent to Dick at 156 Straw Hill, Manchester, NH 03104.

MUNIR ABUHAI DAR FASHIONED HORATIO ALGER CAREER

Munir Abuhaidar worked for Aramco for just two years in the early 1950s, but what he learned—and earned—helped him launch one of the world's top airfreight carriers. The air pioneer died Oct. 4.

A Lebanese graduate of the American University of Beirut (AUB), Abuhaidar joined the company in Beirut in 1951. "His job was to transport fruits and vegetables and other food to...Dhahran," *The New York Times* reported in 1978.

"The first shipment left Beirut in seven refrigerated trucks that never got to the destination because of mechanical problems and the sheer difficulty of the road in those days," the story said. "Then he chartered a refrigerated boat, which was hit by a monsoon and washed onto the shores of Aden. Next he tried to fly the goods in, but airlines weren't much interested in Saudi Arabia then."

In 1953, Abuhaidar left Aramco with \$1,000 to his name, "leased the civilian version of a Lancaster bomber..., hired some ex-Royal Air Force crews and flew the goods to Saudi Arabia himself." That was the start of Trans-Mediterranean Airlines (TMA).

In 1968, *Time* magazine wrote that vegetables and fruit from Lebanon were reaching "dinner tables in London al-

most as rapidly as in Beirut" thanks to Abuhaidar's "slick trading talents."

In 1974, *Aramco World* wrote about Abuhaidar, calling TMA "the world's largest cargo carrier" in terms of scheduled route mileage. It was the first Arab airline to serve the United States.

TMA turned profits up and into the start of the Lebanese Civil War that broke out in the mid-'70s. But strife that decade took its toll and Abuhaidar sold TMA and moved to Millbrook, N.Y.

Looking back to his homeland, he funded the establishment the Abuhaidar Neuroscience Institute at AUB. At its inauguration in 2007, Dean of Medicine Nadim Cortas summed up Abuhaidar's life, saying, "He has taught us it is easier to accomplish the impossible than the difficult."

He is survived by his wife Susan and children Ramzi, Nadim, Lamia, Sumaya and Walid. The family may be



Munir Abuhaidar, left, received a plaque from AUB President John Waterbury at the dedication of the Abuhaidar Neuroscience Institute on Oct. 4, 2007.

contacted c/o Allen Funeral Home, 3270 Franklin Ave., Millbrook, NY 12545.

PLEASANT DAYS SPRING 2017

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



Retiree Brought 'Golden Pen' To UNESCO Islamic-Culture Series

The final book of UNESCO's recently completed six-part series devoted to Islamic culture—Vol. 1, *Foundations of Islam*—bears the imprimatur of Ismail Nawwab, who immersed himself as an editor for the series from his retirement as general manager of Public Affairs in 1992 until his death in 2012. UNESCO published the last two volumes of "The Different Aspects of Islamic Culture" in November. Nawwab, who hailed from Makkah and joined Aramco in 1970, lent a "golden pen and illustrious writing skills" to the 853-page volume on which he worked, said his coeditor, Zafar Ishaq Ansari. The project brought together Muslim and non-Muslim scholars from many backgrounds,

sending a "powerful message of respect and mutual understanding," said UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova. "It is critical that we share the knowledge of truth, and share the depth of wisdom of Islam as a religion of peace, moderation and tolerance," she wrote in the introduction to Vol. 1.