

MAY 2009

# KASRA NEWS

*Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association*



Carlos Xavier  
KASRA President

## A MESSAGE FROM KASRA PRESIDENT Carlos Xavier

I hope you are all surviving the worst economic downturn we have experienced in a very long time. Let's hope the bottom is in sight and we will see some daylight later this year.

**Newsletter.** The response to our request for you to share with us your pictures of retiree events or your vacation photos has been positive. Also your response to sharing with others the **volunteer** work in which you are currently engaged has been both interesting and informative. Please continue to let us know the volunteer work you are doing. We are working with our regional areas to have them periodically take over the "profile" section and inform us about what is going on in their region. We welcome any of your suggestions on how we can improve our newsletter.

**Website.** This resource gives us greater flexibility in providing news and information to our members since we are not restrained by space or cost. We try to provide current news and articles as we receive them. For example, we recently posted the news about the **Trentwood** plant receiving the 2009 Manufacturer Award and the announcement of the temporary closure of the **Alpart** plant on Jamaica for twelve months effective May 15. You can read more about these articles on the website. Our webmaster will be happy to receive your feedback and you can contact him at [web@e-kasra.com](mailto:web@e-kasra.com).

**Email.** This is the fastest and most economical way for KASRA to communicate information to all our members. Please continue to provide us with any changes in your email address as soon as you can.

**VEBA.** I recently paid a courtesy call to the Administrator of the VEBA, at its

office in Concord, California. They informed me that there are approximately 150 retirees/surviving spouses who are entitled to receive reimbursements but have still not enrolled. If you are aware of anyone in this situation, let us know by contacting us at [kasra@e-kasra.com](mailto:kasra@e-kasra.com) and we will be happy to follow up. As a reminder, this benefit is not automatic and the eligible person must first enroll and then annually apply to the Administrator for reimbursement. Application forms are available on the website or by sending a request to us. Unfortunately, the law prevents VEBA from disclosing the names of those people who have not enrolled, not provided a current address or not responded to their mailings. The VEBA has advised us that it expects to announce and send out the 2009 Benefit Program materials later this month to all enrolled participants. In addition to the VEBA mailing, KASRA will post copies of all of the VEBA's 2009 Benefit Program materials on our website.

Until our next newsletter, please continue to keep us informed so that we can continue to keep you informed. Above all, stay active and healthy!

Carlos Xavier  
President, KASRA

**Do you know a retiree who has not signed up for the VEBA? Suggest to them that they call KASRA at (925) 685-1313 or email at [kasra@e-kasra.com](mailto:kasra@e-kasra.com)**

Visit website at  
[www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com)

## WHAT'S GOING ON

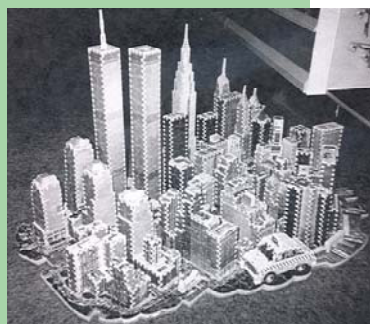


Violet Young, one of eight Services girls who operate wire room, checks copy at top-line printing machine. In the background are 12 tables and 24 reperforators receiving tapes.

Recognize this retiree? That's **Violet P. (Young) Johnson** of Alameda, CA, (left) and this photo of her in the wire room appeared in the November, 1954 issue of the Kaiser Employees Club newsletter.

**Hobbies galore...** Ravenswood retiree **Le Grande Martin** of Gallipolis, OH, builds three dimensional puzzles, the latest challenge being a 5000-piece model of lower Manhattan (see below left). Trentwood retiree **Jess Vincent** (Spokane Valley) is a metal detector.

Savannah, GA Ag Chem retiree and resident **Gene Pickens** enjoys salt water fishing, golfing and being a grandfather to 11 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Jacksonville, FL Can Plant retiree **Michael Garven** (Graham, FL) works crossword puzzles. Gramercy retiree **James Miller** of Rocky Point, NC, loves camping, fishing and doing Sudoku puzzles. Newark, OH retiree and resident **Emerson Holman** plays golf and lists mowing (lawns) as both a hobby and a job. Does that mean he loves mowing so much it's more of a hobby than a job? Gramercy retiree **James LeBlanc** (Paulina, LA) goes hunting and fishing and plants flowers from his own cuttings. **Charlie Graf** (Metairie, LA) plays tennis, enjoys fishing and hobby woodworking. **Helene Hancock** (Kansas City, MO) knits all year 'round making Xmas stockings, works crossword puzzles and takes water aerobics.



Chalmette retiree **Guy Robicheaux** (Slidell, LA) is an artist at designing and fabricating wood pieces and also helps in renovating his daughters' homes. Ravenswood retiree **Clodus Burdell Buck** of Leon, WV, is a woodworker who makes clock frames from old barn lumber. **Violet Nelson** (Logansport, IN) still baby-sits for her great great grandchildren at age 87. **Gerald Emmons** (Edina, MN) goes hunting and fishing in his home state and also in Canada. Bridge is a hobby of Mead retiree **Carol McFarland Ellis** (Spokane, WA). **Betty Petterson** (Grass Valley, CA) enjoys reading, gardening and going on the internet. **Edwin Donnell** (Walnut Creek, CA) plays billiards, putters in

the woodshop and attends homeowners' meetings at Rossmoor. Moss Landing retiree **Nick Reynal** of Salinas, CA, restores early model Ford cars and is a crew member on Landspeed Racing Car in Bonneville, UT. Ravenswood retiree **Martin Gerwig** (Sandyville, WV) enjoys boating, golfing and being a grandpa. Portsmouth retiree **Anthony Monafio** (Warren, RI) does a lot of walking and reading. Says Anthony "the day is wasted if you let a day go by without reading." **Betty Lou Koska** (Winnemucca, NV) goes horseback riding and likes quilting.

CFT retiree and proud dad **Neal Person** of Ellensburg, WA, writes that his son, Kevin, who worked for 21 years at Kaiser, is the VP of sales and marketing at Wagstaff Inc. and is on the Aluminum Association Board of Directors. Tulsa, OK retiree and resident **Patricia Scherer** weathered a severe ice storm last winter and is welcoming spring with open arms. Sullivan, IL retiree and resident **Ina Buxton** (at 80 years young) still takes care of her own home and loves to entertain friends who stop by.

Congratulations to golf champion **Dennis English** (Newark, OH) who won both medal and match play championships at TPC Prestancia in Sarasota, FL, last summer. Speaking of golf, Anglesey retiree **Bill Kister** of Milton Keynes, Bucks, England, was glad to read in KASRA News that a golf group Bill once played with and mentioned by **Phil De Masi** (Spokane, WA) is still going strong. Bill invites his former golf buddies to join him in a game at Woburn, Beds, England. Chalmette retiree and former resident **J. Dewey Gregoire** was forced to evacuate three years ago by Hurricane Katrina. Today, like many of his fellow Chalmatians, he lives in Prairiesville, LA, out of harm's way. Trentwood retiree **Bill Nadwornick** (Greenacres, WA), whose wife passed away two years ago, has a new woman in his life, Lucia, to make him smile. Los Angeles sales retiree **Tony Procanik** and his wife, Kathy, (Monarch Beach, CA) spent three weeks in Bangkok and Phuket, Thailand, sightseeing the Tiger Temple and visiting the grandkids who live in Phuket. Wilmington, NC Ag Chem retirees **Mildred and Clarence Barber** of Waynesville, NC, love living in Maggie Valley on the lake stocked with bass and bream. **Bobbie Mazurie-Mabry** has



moved to Georgetown, TX, from Austin. The world's problems are solved once a month by a trio of KASRA retirees who live in Pinehurst, NC – **Pete Dunston**, **Mike McGroarty** and **Ron Rhody**. Or so they say – sounds like a flimsy excuse to have lunch. Mead retiree **Verne Harr** downsized from a home to an apartment in Spokane, WA. **Norm Schwemberger** (Lafayette, CA) retired for the fourth time last year after three years at Genentech. **Mark Via** (Phoenix, AZ) completed a tour of duty with the U.S. State Department in Paramaribo, Suriname. **Ron Helton** (Kennewick, WA) is director of HR for ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston. He went to work for former Kaiser colleague Dave Sanford who is VP of HR for Lamb Weston.

**Print colleagues...** The December 2008 issue of Light Metal Age featured a colorful cover page submitted by **George Binczewski** (Moraga, CA) and an article, Corrosion of Aluminum Marine Alloys in Boats, by **T.J. Summerson** (Spokane, WA). Gerry and **Knut Frostad** of Camano Island, WA, spend a lot of time in Alaska pleasure boating, commercial fishing and cruising in their 42' Nordic tugboat "Salty Dawg." Captain Knut earned a Coast Guard 100 ton Masters License. **Bob Irelan** (Rancho Murieta, CA) golfed in Palm Springs last month and is heading off to Maui in June with his son's family.

**Ravenswood** retirees are toying with the idea of forming a Help Registry for their region. It's a simple concept – put able retirees in touch with those who need help getting to and from medical appointments, buying groceries, fixing things around the house or having a first point of contact in case of an emergency, to give family members who may live afar time to respond. Interested volunteers and retirees with service requests may call **Lee Corder** at (304) 273-9457. And if your region is interested in starting up its own Registry, wait a few months and ask Lee for an update on how it's working at Ravenswood.

**Happy Anniversary...** Gramercy retiree **Frieda Boughdon** (Vacherie, LA) and her husband, John, visited Lake Tahoe for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Trentwood retiree **Jan Bacon** and her husband, Roger (Rathdrum, ID) celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary twice – at their home with family and friends in

Twin Lakes and with a family visit to Hawaii. Mexico, MO retiree and resident **Alice Edwards** and her husband, Jesse, (pictured, below), celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a dinner with family and friends.



*Jess & Alice Edwards*

Mr. and Mrs. **John Principe Jr.** (Pantego, TX) observed their 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Tillie and **Lou Alvarez** of Livermore, CA, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Lifelong residents of Coeur d'Alene, ID, Tory and **Dale Worley** were married there 60 years ago at the First Methodist Church. Terry and **Len (Mac) McAdams** (pictured, below) of Sante Fe, NM, snapped this photo at the Cathedral of Sante Fe in honor of their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Congratulations to all!



*Terry & Len McAdams*

### Send KASRA Your News & Pictures

Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Mark Murray, Editor, KASRA News, 2471 San Miguel Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or email: [mamwmipr@aol.com](mailto:mamwmipr@aol.com).

## MEMBER PROFILE: GENE MILLER



*"I admired and loved the company... (that) had extraordinary, competent and loyal people..."*

May 2009

Gene Miller began a 32-year career with Kaiser Aluminum in the Chemicals Division at Gramercy, LA. The New Orleans native received an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M in 1964 and an MBA from the University of Dayton in Ohio during part of his four years of military service in the USAF.

After stints in Chemicals production and Specialty Alumina sales, Gene worked in Raw Materials production, eventually becoming Operations Manager of the Baton Rouge Alumina Plant. He moved to Jacksonville, FL, to manage the Can Plant in 1977 and was then assigned to Ravenswood Reduction in 1979 as Production Manager. There, he met his wife, Ann, and they married in 1982 after Gene relocated to Los Angeles to manage the Petroleum Catalyst Plant in Vernon. Three years later, he was promoted to General Manager of Filtrol Catalyst where he remained until the Chemicals Division was sold in 1989.

Gene left the corporation to manage a roofing manufacturing plant in Charleston,

SC. He was asked to return to Kaiser Aluminum in 1993 to manage ALPART in Jamaica. There, he was promoted to Vice President & General Manager of Kaiser's Bauxite & Alumina Operations until an explosion at Gramercy in 1999 necessitated his return to Louisiana to help rebuild and restart the plant. Two years later, Gene went back to Jamaica to manage Kaiser's Bauxite & Alumina Operations. He remained in Jamaica until the corporation permanently transferred him back to the Alumina Business Unit's Office in Baton Rouge. He retired in 2004 after the BU's sale of Alpart, KJBC and the close of Gramercy.

Today, Gene and Ann live in Baton Rouge and spend time visiting their children and families, which include six grandchildren and one great grandchild in Florida, Tennessee and West Virginia.

**Q.** How would you summarize your career at Kaiser Aluminum?

**A.** I admired and loved the company that employed me for 32 years. Kaiser Aluminum had extraordinary, competent and loyal people throughout the organization's many business units. I am extremely grateful to have had the association, mentoring and help from so many really exceptional people there. I received wonderful mentoring from my former supervisors, loyal help and assistance from excellent technical and operations individuals and worked with some exceptional managers. Besides some great experiences, we developed long term friendships.

**Q.** What was the most challenging experience?

**A.** While I was General Manager of the Filtrol Catalyst Business in the Chemicals Division, the company announced that it would sell the entire Chemicals Division

and identified a U.S. competitor to acquire Filtrol. Within weeks, we lost 90 % of the sales team and the business went into a steep decline. Then, the Federal government prevented the Filtrol sale due to potential antitrust issues. It provided the opportunity to begin hiring a new sales organization. Eventually, Filtrol was sold to a European chemical company at a price higher than Kaiser's original purchase price. By then, sales were increasing and the business was returning to profitability.

**Q.** What was the most rewarding experience?

**A.** The most rewarding experience during my career is personal - during my tour at Ravenswood I had the great fortune to meet my wife and best friend, Ann. We were married in California in 1982.

**Q.** How do you stay connected with KASRA retirees?

**A.** I maintain relationships with many of the retirees from Kaiser in the Louisiana area. Several of us meet for regular lunches, do some great off-shore fishing and play some golf. KASRA helps me to stay informed and in touch with the retirees not located in the Louisiana area.

**Q.** What is your favorite food?

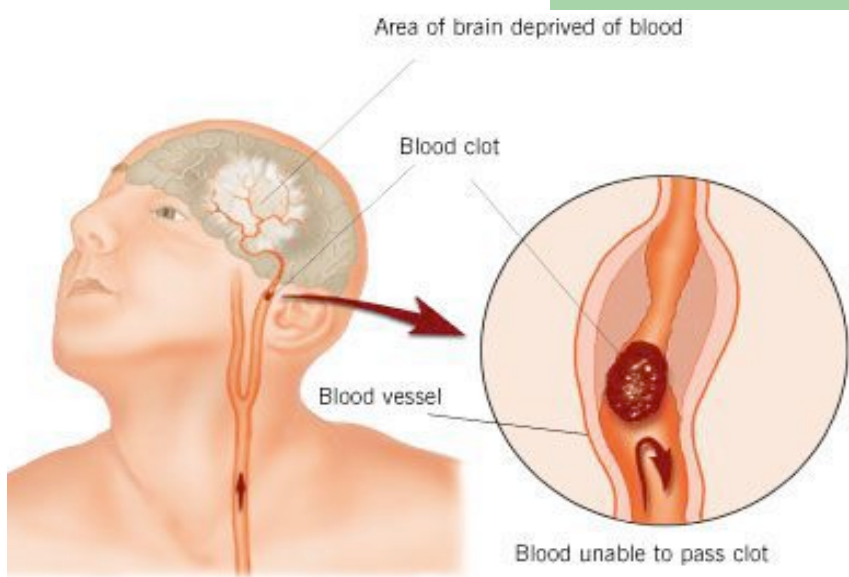
**A.** I love to eat seafood, especially with a Louisiana flavor to it - fish, crawfish, shrimp, gumbo. But I do cook a mean steak now and then.

**Q.** What are your hobbies?

**A.** We love sports, but now do most of it from the spectator side. We follow LSU, as residents of Louisiana, but our hearts are always with Texas A&M and the West Virginia Mountaineers! I just finished reading "A Bold, Fresh Piece of Humanity" by Bill O'Reilly. Besides reading, there is golf, fishing, and traveling. It still amazes me how busy one gets after retirement!!

(End Gene Miller Profile)

## SIGNS OF A STROKE



### REMEMBER THE FIRST THREE LETTERS IN STROKE: S-T-R

Early Recognition Can Save Lives

**Ask these simple questions:**

**S** \*Ask the individual to SMILE.

**T** \*Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE

**R** \*Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

**New Indicator: Stick out Your Tongue**  
Ask the person to stick out his or her tongue. If the tongue appears crooked, if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a possible stroke.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

According to a neurologist, if a stroke victim receives medical attention within 3 hours, the effects of a stroke could be totally reversed. Early recognition and immediate attention are critical.

Source: [www.Aging-No-More.com](http://www.Aging-No-More.com)

**More On-Line Health Resources:**

**American Heart Assn.**  
[www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)

**American Stroke Assn.**  
[www.strokeassociation.org](http://www.strokeassociation.org)

**National Stroke Assn.**  
[www.stroke.org](http://www.stroke.org)

May 2009



**KAISER  
ALUMINUM  
SALARIED  
RETIREES  
ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 1171, Lafayette,  
CA 94549, (925) 685-1313

E-Mail:  
[news@e-kasra.com](mailto:news@e-kasra.com)

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Bob Mohr  
Dave Whitman

We're on the Web!

See us at:

**[www.e-kasra.com](http://www.e-kasra.com)**

## LUNCH BUNCH

**May 1 KAOS (Baton Rouge)**  
Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Drusilla Place.  
Call Jerry Ordeneaux at (225) 275-2598.  
For reservations call (225) 275-0342.

**May 4 Los Angeles**  
Lunch at noon at The Elephant Bar,  
14303 E. Firestone Blvd., La Mirada.  
Contact Norm Manger (310) 377-2135 or  
email [normmanger@cox.net](mailto:normmanger@cox.net). L.A. meeting  
held the 1st Monday of each month.

**May 14 Mead**  
Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, on  
North Division. Contact Phil Marksbury  
at (509) 325-1798 or email  
[pjmarksb@comcast.net](mailto:pjmarksb@comcast.net). Mead meets the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month.

**June 3 Tacoma**  
Noon Lunch at Tacoma Elks Lodge, 1965  
South Union. Contact Bob Mohr at (253)  
820-6569 or [bobjanetmohr@comcast.net](mailto:bobjanetmohr@comcast.net).

**June 4 Ravenswood**  
Summer Picnic at Kera. For information  
call Dave Whitman (304) 273-5548 or  
email [dwhitman@wirefire.com](mailto:dwhitman@wirefire.com).

**June 4 Baton Rouge**  
Lunch at noon at Mansur's, 5720  
Corporate Blvd. Call Bob Eisenbach  
(225) 926-1334 or email  
[bobeisenbach@cox.net](mailto:bobeisenbach@cox.net). Baton Rouge  
meets 1st Thursday of each month.

**June 9 Newark**  
Lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown  
Buffet in Heath, Ohio. Contact Bob Abel  
(740) 323-2268 or email  
[rpabel@windstream.net](mailto:rpabel@windstream.net). Costs are paid  
for by the Newark plant.

**June 10 Chalmette**  
Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Jasmine French  
Restaurant (across from the Slidell Train  
Station, on the corner of Teddy Avenue in  
Olde Town Slidell), 1768 Front Street (US  
Hwy. 11, Blue Star Hwy. RSVP by 5/29  
to Sherman Faught (985) 690-4942 or  
Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-0437 or  
email [schimcol@aol.com](mailto:schimcol@aol.com).

**June 22 KARLA**  
Social Hour at 11:00 a.m. Lunch is 12  
noon at the Creekside Café in Rossmoor,  
Walnut Creek. Please RSVP to Sharon  
Fraetis (925) 934-4334 or email  
[lafnatv@silcon.com](mailto:lafnatv@silcon.com).

### *In Memoriam*

Donald W. Anderson - Ripley, WV  
Clare Deahl - Spokane, WA  
James A. Dickeson - Livermore, CA  
Charles (Chuck) Hines-Walnut Creek, CA  
Robert M. Huey - Bristol, RI  
Robert (Bob) Lister - Baton Rouge, LA  
John Magnasco - San Jose, CA  
Joseph W. Mulloy - Walnut Creek, CA  
Ralph B. Penman - Warren, RI  
Claude H. Stubbs - Picayune, MS  
Wilmer Taylor - Spokane, WA  
Joseph (Joe) Ward - Danville, CA  
E. Douglas Wilkins - Palo Alto, CA  
Walter J. Winschell - Troy, MI  
Roderick Wong - Alameda, CA

The Board of Directors expresses its  
deepest sympathy to families and loved  
ones.