

Tucson II On The Horizon

Just as it only seems like yesterday since we were all back home, so will it seem like only tomorrow that we'll be home again at the 2003 AramcoBrat reunion in Tucson, Arizona. Because Memorial Day weekend (May 22-26) will be here before we know it, it's time to make sure that all your camels are in a row. Have you sent your survey to the reunion committee? Have you sent your administrative baksheesh to the ABI treasurer? Do we have your current address? If we do not have all three items, you will NOT receive the reunion registration materials in January! A step-by-step guide to registering for the reunion appears on the ABI website, along with a list of those who have indicated they will or might be at the reunion. Be sure to get yourself on that list TODAY!

A recent visit to the Sheraton El Conquistador proved how anxious they are to have the Brats back. Many of the staff remember us from '01 and are looking forward to our next visit. If you have not already made your hotel reservation, you must do so soon as the hotel is already 3/4 booked for the reunion. We will be completely filling the hotel again, so unless you want to stay down the hill at the overflow hotel, make your reserva-

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Nominations

Gary Barnes DH'70
Director at Large – Nominations

Ask yourself how it all happens: the fabulous AramcoBrat reunions, the ABI website with photographs and stories of Arabia, class representatives who keep us in touch with friends from long ago, and this newsletter. These are the pieces of an association that keeps these memories and these relationships alive for all of us – AramcoBrats, Incorporated.

At the heart of this association is your board that works continuously during the year to improve the association and sustain our dream. Who is this board? Just go to the ABI website (www.aramco-brats.com) where our names and responsibilities are listed. You will see that there are 10 positions on our board, four of them elected and six appointed by the board. The elected positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

The opportunity to serve on the board is open to any Brat with interest and dedication. Every two years, we cast ballots for the four elected board positions, and seek volunteers to fill or assist the six appointed positions. We need Brats with good communication skills, a knack for teamwork, and a computer connected to the Internet. It is only through the involvement and support of Brats like you that we are able to sustain and grow this wonderful organization. I am therefore inviting you to consider a role on the ABI Board.

Concerned about not having the time or experience to serve on the Board? Then consider instead becoming an assistant to a board member. Not only will you be able to provide valuable support to ABI, but you will also have an opportunity to gain experience and familiarity with the ABI Board.

If you are interested in serving on the ABI Board, or if you would like to find out more about what a Board position entails, you should contact me via e-mail at gary@aramco-

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It is hard to believe that the holidays are right around the corner, and we have less than seven months until the 2003 reunion. If you haven't already sent in your AdBak, filled out your survey, and made your hotel reservations, please do so soon. At present, we have approximately 79 rooms left to be booked at the El Conquistador. Once the El Con is full, we will advertise overflow hotel information on the ABI website.

The ABI Board has made significant efforts this term to make the ABI more Brat-friendly and business-like. Most of us met in Tucson in October for a series of planning sessions that looked at all aspects of the ABI to identify where we could make improvements. As a result of that meeting, we are 1) publishing the minutes of our formal meetings and quarterly financial reports on our website; 2) looking at ways of coordinating our many databases; 3) planning to produce an ABI annual report to summarize what each board member and committee achieved in the past year and 4) we are looking into whether the ABI can accept credit card payments for AdBaks and reunion registrations. If you have other ideas for how the ABI can improve its services to you, please use the Ask the Board form on the ABI website to let us know.

While in Tucson, we also had the opportunity to meet with the Tucson 2003 reunion committee and share some of their plans for the 2003 reunion. We met with hotel managers to discuss improvements for class party night and other reunion details, and to go over renovations to the El Con (water slide!) that will make the 2003 reunion even more enjoyable.

We are pleased to announce that, on June 19, the IRS determined that the ABI is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. You can find our exemption application, supporting documents, and exemption letter on our website. We have also received full assignment of the Brat logo from the US Patent and Trademark Office.

We are developing an increasingly promising relationship with Aramco Services Company (ASC). In April, I was invited by ASC to attend the banquet in honor of Crown Prince Abdullah as the representative of the Aramco Brats. While there, I attended a

luncheon and a very cordial meeting with Aramco Services personnel and the Annuitant Board of Directors. More recently, Dr. Jamil Al Dandany, the Director of Public Affairs from ASC, met with the ABI Board in Tucson to discuss how our organizations could work together. Dr. Al Dandany stated that ASC wishes to work with us to develop and accomplish an outreach program that will promote a positive awareness of our home - Saudi Arabia. A committee consisting of myself, Mike Simms, Michael McCoy, and Diane Knipfel-Adams has been formed to expand our relationship with ASC. We hope to have more news about this initiative for you in our next newsletter.

Not all the news is happy, however. It is with much regret that I report of Mark Lameier's resignation from the position of Vice President. While on the board, Mark served on the bylaw, nominating, publications, website, and reunion negotiation committees. Mark's intelligence, sense of humor, and gentlemanly manner will be missed. We appreciate the volunteer time he gave to the ABI, and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Mike Simms (our Publications Director) has agreed to accept the appointment of Vice President for the remainder of this board's term. Mike has served as Database Coordinator, Directory Coordinator, and Publications Director, and will serve double duty as Vice President and Publications Director.

Our thanks and appreciation go to three Brats who have recently volunteered their time and energy to the ABI:

- Cyndy Nicholson-Castain RT'69, our Online Museum Curator, has put together an outstanding addition to the ABI website. I had the pleasure of meeting Cyndy at the annuitant reunion in September. She is a delightful and talented individual, and we are lucky to have her. More information on the ABI website and the online museum can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

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Bylaws Update

Michael McCoy RT'72
ABI Webmaster

The ABI Bylaws Committee was formed in February with the goal of rewriting the ABI bylaws to make them logical and representative of how the ABI actually operates. The Bylaws Committee (which currently consists of Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes, Mike Simms, Selena Maranjian, Cathie McCoy, Marie Littlejohn-Dunn, and me) has finished its analysis of the bylaws and drafted its proposal for changes, and has forwarded our report to the ABI Board for review.

Once the ABI Board has amended and approved the Bylaws re-draft proposal, the new bylaws draft will be posted on the ABI website in December for public discussion and comment. Based on the feedback received during this period, the ABI board will make final revisions to the amended bylaws and send them to our attorney for legal approval. The board will then vote to adopt them (or not adopt them) as the governing principles for ABI operation. As Brats, you will be asked to vote to accept or reject the amended Bylaws at the 2003 reunion in Tucson.





Donations

As is our wont in these newsletters, we present here the names of those noble gentleBrats who have so graciously donated money to the organization since the time of our last newsletter. These donations enable us to continue the work of reuniting, reconnecting, educating and serving AramcoBrats everywhere. Should you chance to meet one of the people on this list, please take a little extra time to thank them for helping to bring us all together again.

Karen Alexander DH'74
Kimberly Gail-Ayers DH'72
Gary Barnes DH'70
Cynthia Blanchard-Curtis DH'75
Barbara Bowler-Predmore DH'65
Jim Cain Staff
Eugene Colgan DH'55
Laura Compton DH'73
Sherri Davis-Alazraki AB'62
Robert Deloian RT'59
Brian Dowling RT'71
Jerry Eberle RT'60
Larry Eberle RT'62
Donald Ehl RT'66
Arnold Elving DH'71
James Erwin DH'60
John Fannin AB'57
Elise Forbes-Seeley DH'69
Sandra Gelinas DH'65

Dyanne Greer DH'62
Ruth Hirsbrunner Staff
Caroline Homolka-Masters RT'84
Laurie Kienholz-Bosley RT'64
P.J. Long DH'74
Raymond Lovell DH'61
Mary Martin-Venker DH'73
Byron Martin AB'60
Joe Mathe DH'86
Sharon McQuade DH'65
John Meyer DH'62
Scott Downing Miller DH'62
Kimberly Mosley-Kotara RT'82
Brian Mulligan DH'76
Mark Nance RT'66
Billye Jo Nations-Dumm AB'58
Cynthia Nicholson-Castain RT'69
Marilyn Nix-Baucher DH'83
Kim Nix-Hurlbut DH'79

Robin Payne-White DH'59
Ellen Beth Polhemus-Mazaika DH'68
Bill Quick DH'87
Linda Richardson-Rednour DH'71
Kelli Riley-Healy DH'73
Hania Shiblaq-Saleh DH'77
Antoinette Smith AB'70
Linda Snyder-Christian DH'65
Robert Sturgill AB'69
L. Scott Tanner RT'70
Susan Taylor-Elving DH'71
Marilyn Townsend-Maas DH'62
Christal Townsend-Waite DH'66
Catherine Ulissey RT'76
Robin VanDerzee-Sego DH'79
Russell M. Webb RT'66
Janice Wohlgethan-Hawwa DH'66
Sheila Zercoe AB'75



ABI By the Numbers

ABI Budget 11-1-01 to 10-31-03			FY2002					
			2001	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Totals to Date
			11-1 to 12-31-01	1-1 to 3-31-02	4-1 to 6-30-02	7-1 to 9-30-02	10-1 to 12-31-02	
Revenue								
Administrative Baksheesh	\$16,000.00			\$2,674.00	\$2,488.00	\$1,414.00		\$6,576.00
Donations	5,000.00	20.00	1,869.00	1,625.00	860.00			4,374.00
ABI Proceeds (Suq)	500.00		77.00	15.00	26.75			118.75
2001 Directory Sales	750.00	40.00	90.00	135.00	135.00			400.00
2003 Raffle/Auction	5,000.00							0.00
2003 Reunion Registrations	69,000.00							0.00
Total Revenue	\$96,250.00	\$60.00	\$4,710.00	\$4,263.00	\$2,435.75	\$0.00		\$11,468.75
Operating Expenses								
ABI Web Site	\$2,000.00		\$45.00	\$22.50	\$92.49			\$159.99
Accounting/Legal Fees	2,000.00		1,363.73	1,445.25	710.16			3,519.14
Bank Fees	150.00							0.00
CRC Expenses (incl. Class Rep Mailings)	700.00							0.00
Database Upgrade	2,000.00							0.00
Directory Printing/Mailing	10,000.00							0.00
Miscellaneous ABI Expenses	1,000.00	299.50			46.72			346.22
Newsletter Mailings	13,500.00	3,809.43	1,453.62	2,984.73				8,247.78
Raffle/Auction Expenses	700.00			57.81				57.81
Reunion Expenses	70,000.00			496.22				496.22
Reunion Registration Mailing	2,600.00							0.00
Special Reunion Fund Expenses	7,000.00	372.36			181.42			553.78
2005 Reunion Site Search Expenses	1,000.00				35.00			35.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$112,650.00	\$4,481.29	\$2,862.35	\$5,006.51	\$1,065.79	\$0.00		\$13,415.94
Profit/Loss	(\$16,400.00)	(\$4,421.29)	\$1,847.65	(\$743.51)	\$1,369.96	\$0.00		(\$1,947.19)
Cash Balance from Previous Term	\$43,630.24							
Cash Balance - End of Quarter		\$39,208.95	\$41,056.60	\$40,313.09	\$41,683.05	\$41,683.05		\$41,683.05
Anticipated Cash Balance - End of Term	\$27,230.24							

Online Auction Coming to a Web Browser Near You

Michael McCoy RT'72
ABI Webmaster

In the last year, the ABI has received a number of donations for the ABI auction from Brats wishing to support the ABI's efforts. In the past, we've held our auctions at reunions, which means that folks who attend the reunions can bid and folks who can't attend are shut out. To make some of our auction items more accessible to everyone, we've decided to hold an online auction in December so that people who can't be in Tucson in May can still participate.

Here is how it will work. Starting in early December, the ABI website will have pictures of the items that will be put up for auction, together with a description of each item and the dates on which you can bid for it. Once an item goes up for auction, you will have three days to place your bid. If you want something, you can use an online form or send an email to auction@aramco-brats.com, identifying the item you want and your bid amount.

Each day, we will list the highest bid received for each item on the auction page, so bidders will know what the new minimum bid is. The highest bid received before the auction deadline will be considered final, and the winning bidder will be contacted for payment information. Once Kathy Montgomery, the ABI treasurer, receives your payment, the item in question will be shipped to you via UPS, USPS regular or priority mail. Shipping to destinations in the U.S. will be included in the auction price - shipping to other countries may require an additional fee.

Items To Be Auctioned

- Soap from Dhahran International Hotel
- Small sand roses
- Leather camel
- Baseball cap - Saudi Arabia Saudi All Stars
- Incense Burner
- Bedouin Jewelry
- Camel Rug Coaster
- Traffic Safety Coloring Book
- Round Iranian Table Cloth



- Girl Scout sash with badges/RT
- Aramco two-year tie clasp/gold - in original box
- Aramco table cloth/white w/Aramco logo
- Arab wedding dress/royal blue and gold
- Arab wedding dress/rose and silver
- Ras Tanura golf shirt/baby blue
- Brass letter opener

If you'd like more information about the ABI online auction, or if you'd like to receive an email notice when new items go up for auction, please send an email to auction@aramco-brats.com. If you would like to donate items to the ABI online auction, please contact Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes (drgeerdes@cox.net or 619-589-8377).



Class Competition

Wendy Nine-Sosinski DH'68
Class Representative Coordinator

To recognize classes that have made an outstanding effort to stay in touch, the ABI would like to announce the establishment of an annual Class of the Year award. Class Representatives and class loyalties are an important part of Brats' connection to each other and provide the glue for the continuation of the Aramco Brats organization.

The Class of the Year award is intended to recognize the hard work Class Representatives have extended during the previous year and to encourage Brats to participate in class and ABI events.

The Class of the Year award will be given to the class that does the best job of keeping its members in touch with one another by way of newsletters, web pages, mini-reunions, and mailing lists. Support for the ABI will be important as well, i.e. percentage of class signed up for the 2003 reunion, number of address updates received from Class Representatives, etc. Suggestions for other criteria will also be considered. Please email Wendy Nine-Sosinski, Class Rep Coordinator, at sosinskiw@comcast.net.

The first Class of the Year award will be presented at the 2003 Tucson reunion. The winning class will receive a lovely trophy, universal acclaim and admiration, and bragging rights for the year.

If you are interested in helping your class win the Class of the Year trophy, contact your Class Representative. If you're not sure who your Class Rep is, check the list at <http://www.aramco-brats.com/crc.htm>. If your class doesn't have a Class Representative, send an email to Wendy at sosinskiw@comcast.net to find out how you can volunteer.

We look forward to your enthusiastic participation!



ABI Board Contacts

President

Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes (RT'62)
diana@aramco-brats.com

Vice President/Pubs

Mike Simms (AB'78)
mike@aramco-brats.com

Treasurer

Kathy Montgomery (AB'64)
kathy@aramco-brats.com

Secretary

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pat@aramco-brats.com

Reunion Oversight Officer

Diane Knipfel-Adams (AB'75)
diane@aramco-brats.com

Director at Large - Nominations

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Database Coordinator

Sherri Dent-Moxley (DH'77)
sherri@aramco-brats.com

E-mail Coordinator

Doral Zadorkin-Allen (DH'66)
doral@aramco-brats.com

Webmaster

Michael McCoy (RT'72)
mccoy@aramco-brats.com

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2003 Aramco Brat Reunion

TUCSON, ARIZONA

Sheraton El Conquistador Resort & Country Club

Registration materials will be mailed in January 2003 to all those who have sent in the SURVEY (below) and the ADBAK fee (see AdBak form). If you have not already sent in these two items, please do it NOW! The survey form can also be submitted through the brat website: www.aramco-brats.com. Please complete all the information on the form, including brat district/year or teacher district/years of employment.

Committee

Erica Ryrholm-Martin, DH'72
Alex Yiannakakis, RT'74
Donna Yiannakakis
Tavy Sandin, DH'61
Colette Philip, DH'69
Ann Burba, DH'67

Mail SURVEY form to:

Erica Ryrholm-Martin, Reunion Chair
7370 E Temeroso Pl, Tucson, AZ 85750

2003 Reunion Survey

BRATS District at time of 9th grade or last lived in if you did not graduate from the Aramco school system:
9th grade graduation year (from Aramco school or other):

TEACHERS Districts where you were employed:
Years of employment (i.e. 1963 - 1977):

IMPORTANT!

A guest may NOT be an Aramco-Brat or an Aramco teacher. Each brat and teacher must complete his/her own survey form.

PLEASE PRINT

Your name

Maiden (brats)

Last

First

Mailing Address

Street/Box

City

State/Country

Zip+4/CountryCode

Phone

Country Code/Area Code + Number

email

2003 Reunion attendance: yes maybe

Guest: yes maybe

How many?

I am interested in:

(Circle all that apply)

bowling

golf

tennis

Guest is interested in:

(Circle all that apply)

bowling

golf

tennis

The ABI website continues to grow and add features, and it seems to be popular with Brats. Our ISP tells us we get more than 10,000 hits per month, which seems extraordinary. Here are some of the highlights and new features to look for:

- The ABI online museum (<http://www.aramco-brats.com/museum/>) has been a huge success. Cyndy Nicholson Castain RT'69, who is now the ABI Museum Curator, has worked hard to build a space for all Brats to share their memorabilia associated with Aramco and Saudi Arabia. Photos from Brat contributors have been arranged here in various exhibits, for example, the Arabia "wing" has exhibits for camels, money, stamps, coffee pots, and clothing. The Aramco "wing" includes old photographs, district maps, and a scanned version of an original "Blue Flame" manual. Special thanks go out to Andrew Fight and the Ryrholm girls for their contributions to the museum.
- We've added email links to the Class Representatives' pages to make it easier for you to contact your class rep. Several classes maintain their own class-specific webpages to keep their classmates connected. Bravo!
- The Poetry page gets new additions every month from talented Brats. To recognize Brats' contributions in this area, we will be asking you to vote for Best Story and Best Poem, with awards to be presented at the reunion.
- We have implemented an ABI Announcement List to send important bulletins to Brats every month (or two). It is intended to be a very low-traffic list. The Announcement list gets sent to all Brats for whom we have an e-mail address unless someone asks not to be included. To ensure you continue to receive ABI announcements, make sure your Class Representative and Doral Zadorkin-Allen (doral@aramco-brats.com) have your correct e-mail address.

Of course, we continue to update the Coming Events window, the Reunion Who's Coming page, the Recipes page, and the Birthday Lists as we hear from you. Remember, you can always use the What's New page (<http://www.aramco-brats.com/new.htm>) to see what's new on the ABI website.



Nominations

(Continued from page 1)

brats.com. This is our board and it is up to all of us to preserve the legacy of the Aramco Brats.

I hope to hear from you soon. 

Tucson

(Continued from page 1)

tion NOW. Call them at (520) 544-5000 and be sure to tell them you're with the AramcoBrat reunion so you get the special \$91 room rate.

The Tucson Reunion Committee (Erica Ryrholm-Martin, chair; Alex and Donna Yiannakakis, Ann Burba, Tavy Sandin, and Colette Philip) have been working hard and have another amazing reunion in store for us. We can't wait to see you all again!



President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

- Wendy Nine-Sosinski DH'68 has accepted the position of Class Representative Coordinator, taking over for the hard-working Sherri Dent-Moxley. Wendy is bright, enthusiastic, and creative, and should help us give the Class Rep program the attention it deserves.
- Gretchen Connally DH'91 has joined us as the web expert for the Class Representatives. She is available to help class reps create and maintain class websites, which she promises is simpler than it looks. To see the site she created for her class, point a browser at <http://www.aramco-brats.com/classes/DH91>. You will see why we are excited to have her participation.

We have a half-price sale going on at the ABI suq, so don't forget to come by the ABI website to do some of your Christmas shopping. Anybody who places an order of over \$50.00 will receive a Saudi/American flag pin or a Saudi key chain. Such a deal you can hardly refuse.

Take time to enjoy the pleasures of the Holiday Season and we'll see you in Tucson.



Change of Address?

Name: _____
 First Middle Maiden Last

District/Year:* _____
 District (DH, RT, AB, or UD) Year of 9th Grade Graduation

Address: _____
 Street/Post Office Box

_____ City State/Country ZIP+4

Telephone: _____
 Area Code/Country Code Telephone Number

Mail Completed Form to:

**Sherri Dent-Moxley
 AramcoBrats, Inc.
 675 Cypress Tree Drive,
 Rock Hill, SC 29730-9271
 U.S.A.**

**Contact info may also be
 changed online at:**

www.aramco-brats.com

* Year you graduated from 9th grade and district where you lived at graduation. If you did not graduate from an ARAMCO

2003 Adbak Fees

Your contributions keep ABI alive — please respond today!

This is New Address Information — Please Update ABI Records

Name: _____
 First Middle Maiden Last

District/Year:* _____
 District (DH, RT, AB, or UD) Year of 9th Grade Graduation

Address: _____
 Street/Post Office Box

_____ City State Country ZIP+4

Telephone: _____
 Area Code/Country Code Telephone Number

E-mail: _____
 * Year you graduated from 9th grade and district where you lived at graduation. If you did not graduate from an ARAMCO school, year you would have graduated from 9th grade and last district where you lived.

2003 Adbak: _____
 (\$18 U.S./ \$23 International)

Additional Contribution: _____
 Anonymous contribution — Please do not include my name in list of donors

2001 ABI Directory (Tucson): _____
 (\$10 U.S./ \$15 International)*
 REDUCED TO SELL!

Total: _____

Please make checks payable to AramcoBrats, Inc. in US dollars only.
 * This fee does NOT cover your 2003 Adbak or the 2003 ABI Directory. It only purchases the 2001 directory.

**Mail to: Kathy Montgomery, AramcoBrats, Inc.
 P.O. Box 2036, Pismo Beach, CA 93448, USA**

NOTE:

From your e-mail coordinator

The AramcoBrats e-mail listing continues to grow daily. With everyone's continued help, we are keeping up with most changes. You have two options for keeping your e-mail address current. You may (1) notify Doral directly, at doral@aramco-brats.com, or (2) you may go to our AramcoBrats web site at www.aramco-brats.com, choose Address Change Form from the ABI menu, fill out the form and click on the Send button.

Have You Tried Brat Chat?

Brat Chat is a free service -- a conversation between 700+ brats carried out daily via email. On any given day, chat-ers may be discussing Middle East politics, movies, tri-district dances, square hamburgers, Arabic words, upcoming reunions, visits to Arabia, recipes, jellyfish, favorite teachers, sneaking out, and many more topics. Email TMFSelena@aol.com for more info.

BRATnews

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<http://www.aramco-brats.com>

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Mike Simms, Editor

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ABI Board

President	Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes (RT'62)
Vice President	Mike Simms (AB'78)
Secretary	Pat Meadors-Desormeau (RT'60)
Treasurer	Kathy Montgomery (AB'64)
Reunion Oversight Offic.	Diane Knipfel-Adams (AB'75)
Publications Officer	Mike Simms (AB'78)
Database Coordinator	Sherri Dent-Moxley (DH'77)
E-mail Coordinator	Doral Zadorkin Allen (DH'66)
Webmaster	Michael McCoy (RT'72)
Director at Large	Gary Barnes (DH'70)

Reunion 2003

The Place

The Sheraton El Conquistador, Tucson, AZ

The Dates

May 22-26, 2003

What You Need to Do

- 1- Fill out and mail your Adbak. Use the form on page 7.
- 2- Fill out and mail your 2003 Reunion Survey form. See page 5 or use the ABI website.
- 3- Make hotel reservations. Call (520) 544-5000.
- 4- Check www.aramco-brats.com to see who else is coming.

Address Service Requested

AramcoBrats, Inc.
c/o Sherri Dent-Moxley
Database Coordinator
675 Cypress Tree Drive
Rock Hill, SC 29730-9271

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
SAN DIEGO, CA
PERMIT #879