

Reunion Temptations

Randa Owen-Williams DH'65 - Class Coordinator Director

You're tempted. Go on and admit it. You've logged onto the reunion hotel web site and tried to imagine yourself at the canteen or by the pool. You've checked with work...and your spouse...and its ok with them. So why haven't you picked up the phone to make a reservation?

Right! Why bother? I've moved on - haven't been in touch with my classmates for years. Those I've kept up with are the only ones important to me - probably have nothing in common with the others. What would I say that would interest them - or what they would say that would interest me? My "achievements" are nothing to brag about, and I would be loathe to hear folks brag

about theirs. Probably would just be another superficial exercise and a large, meaningless party. No way to reconnect at a significant level in a large group, with such little time. Besides, I had "issues" with some of those people - no need to resurrect that! I am happy with my current, busy life and don't need to dredge up old memories - good or bad.

If any of the above thoughts has swirled through your head, discard them immediately - they are wrong! There is something for everyone at these reunions.

(Continued on page 8)



Lights! Camera! Action!

Neomi Tio DH'00 - '09 Reunion Comittee, Younger Brat Outreach

The 2009 Aramco Brats Reunion is quickly approaching and it just wouldn't be the same without you! Yes I'm talking about all of you "Younger Generation" Brats out there! The dates are set, Venice Boardwalk and Hermosa Beach are calling, and the Hollywood nightlife awaits you! Los Angeles is the place to be May 21st -25th 2009!

The upcoming reunion is a perfect place to gather all of your Aramco friends and catch up on college careers, new jobs, and life since your school days in Saudi.

Recent college graduates Keith Nietupski and Neomi Tio have joined the 2009 Reunion Committee to ensure the festivities are an AWESOME experience for the younger generations - after all Los Angeles is the entertainment capital of the U.S.!

"Everyone should be really excited about our 2009 L.A. Reunion because it is going to be an absolute blast," says Neomi Tio. "Los Angeles is the perfect combination of style, class, glitz, and glamour. As a younger BRAT, I'm ecstatic about the location - there is so much to do and much fun to be had!"

Of course we understand that a budget is at the forefront of priorities for many of you and we

have great news. The 2009 Los Angeles Reunion is totally affordable! The LAX Marriott boasts three restaurants, two bars, a Starbucks, and many other services without having to leave the property. All of this at the negotiated price of \$109/night just can't be beat in the area! The hotel rooms accommodate up to 4 people - remember sharing rooms with your friends is a great way to cut your costs even more!

Tio added that, "this will be the biggest and baddest Aramco Brat Reunion ever! It's gonna be epic! Los Angeles 2009 will be THE MOTHER OF ALL BRAT REUNIONS! You don't want to miss out, trust me. Do whatever you need to do to be there...YALLA!"

Be sure to keep an eye out for online invitations, reminders, updates, and reunion information on Facebook and Myspace!

WHAT'S INSIDE

• Nominations	2
• Reunion Highlights	3
• Treasurer's Report	5
• Saudi Aramco is 75	6
• President's Message	7
• Pay your AdBak	9



You Could Be The Future

If you are reading this, then chances are you are one of thousands of Brats who appreciate how much the ABI does for us all. You may have attended one or more of the biennial reunions, and felt the joy of finding an old friend at the "teen canteen". Your ABI directory may have a special place on your bookshelf, or perhaps you have called your children over to the computer to show them the photos of Saudi Arabia that are posted on the ABI website.

All of this is made possible by the dedicated work of just a few Brats who make up the ABI Board and reunion committee. All of us on the ABI board recognize that we have been given a sacred trust, and we understand the responsibility that your trust has placed on us. It is hard, sometimes challenging work, but year after year we return to make it all happen again. We do so because we are committed to ensuring the survival of this precious organization and because we receive deep satisfaction from knowing that we have been part of preserving this wonderful family to which we all belong.

The ABI is a volunteer agency, and our survival depends on new Brats regularly stepping up to carry the torch. To meet our future obligations, the ABI must have new candidates and volunteers. Every two years we hold elections for the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and at this time several positions have only one candidate and we do not have a candidate for Treasurer (yes, our good friend Doug Webb is stepping down). If you, or some Brat you



ABI Board Hard at Work

Gary Barnes DH'70 — Director at Large, Nominations

know, actually paid attention in Mr. Ayubi's math class and you understand the difference between a spread-sheet and a cheese spread, now is the time to step forward. Your ABI Board really needs you.

The ABI also has 7 positions that are filled by appointment by the elected board, and next year some of these board members will be stepping down after years of service. We have opportunities for Brats who may not have much board experience, but want to join, especially if you have skills in specific areas such as website design, desktop publishing, or networking (helping to find and connect with other Brats). I, or anyone on the board, will be glad to talk to you and tell you what is involved in participating.

If you believe in the mission of the ABI, and you have the time and resources to help carry the torch, please talk to us about joining or running for office.

You can get to know the current board and our responsibilities by going to our website at www.aramco-brats.com.

The future is now. In just four months, ballots for the 2009 ABI election will be mailed out. It is up to you and Brats just like you to ensure that we have creative, dedicated candidates to choose from, and to ensure that our board has skilled volunteers for the appointed slots. Being part of the ABI requires a serious commitment of time, patience and effort. In return you will receive a lifetime of memories and the satisfaction of knowing that you helped keep this dream alive.

WHY DOES THE ABI AND THE REUNION COMMITTEE KEEP ASKING ME TO MAKE MY HOTEL RESERVATION NOW?

We anticipate that over 900 brats and family will attend the reunion. Our room block for the 2009 reunion in Los Angeles was based on room nights utilized for each night of the reunions in Tucson 2001 and Houston 2005. Contracts for those reunions did not have penalty clauses if we did not fill our room block. Our current contract does have a room attrition clause which could add up to a substantial amount of money if our group does not utilize the contracted room nights.

We have the option to decrease the contracted room block by 16% on November 19, 2008. We do not want to exercise that right. However, if we do not see sufficient reservations by November 19 we must reduce the room block to avoid potential monetary penalties.

What does this mean? It means that if you are planning on attending the reunion you should make your room reservation now. The hotel will continue to honor our room rate of \$109 as long as there are rooms available. But, if you wait, there is a good possibility that there will not be any rooms available. We did not contract with an overflow hotel in the area as the Marriott is plenty big enough to accommodate us and the other hotels only offered a considerably higher rate.

So what are you waiting for? Sign on to http://www.aramco-brats.com/reunion_reservations.html to make your reservation. Please note the hotel will make every effort to accommodate your request for a pool view room, but it is not guaranteed.

We are aware that some of you will

desire to be placed in a quiet zone at the hotel. This most likely would be on one of the floors in the high rise not facing the pool. We have alerted the hotel that it is our desire to accommodate those that want peace and quiet.

Please contact Diana Ryrholm Geerdes at diana@aramco-brats.com to be put on the quiet zone list. Your email should give us permission to make any changes to your reservation in order to attempt to honor that request. Please be aware that if you have requested a pool view room on one of the lower floors that have balconies, that will not be in the quiet zone. We cannot make these changes until we are much closer to the reunion dates. Every attempt will be made to let you know if a change has been made. - Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes RT'62

Hooray for Aramco Brats!

Andra St. Ivanyi-Berholds, DH'91, Reunion Committee Communications

The 2009 Aramco Brat Reunion is getting closer!

We'll be getting together for days of sun, fun, laughter and memories from Thursday, May 21, 2009, to Monday, May 25, 2009!

The Reunion Committee has been hard at work preparing the logo, the Teen Canteen, the slide show, the Saudi Suq, and a whole host of other activities!

Location. The next Brat Reunion will be held in Los Angeles at the newly remodeled LAX Marriott. The LAX Marriott is a hop, skip and a jump from LAX with terrific facilities and high-quality bars and restaurants on the premises. Its newly redone lobby is colorful and hip, with several restaurants and a café near the entrance. The pool area is landscaped and surrounded by trees (and rooms), and despite its proximity to LAX, still feels tucked away and private.

Photos of the hotel can be viewed on the website at: <http://www.aramco-brats.com/hotelimages.html>.

Reserve your room

now! It's tempting to put it off – but don't! The Reunion Committee urges you to reserve your room(s) as soon as possible. Reservations are not only a crucial indicator of attendance (we have to know how many attendees to plan for), but the more rooms reserved for us, the more momentum we generate! It's time to get serious, contact your friends and classmates, and reserve a room or suite at the LAX Marriott.

We have negotiated a reduced rate of \$109 per night. (Suites are a bit more, and have not been reserved in a block. If you want a suite, book it now.) Reservations can be made by calling the Marriott main line at 1-800-228-9290. Remember to say you're an Aramco Brat to get our special room rate.

Activities. Los Angeles is a great city for a family vacation, and this Memorial Day weekend Reunion will offer you and the kids lots to do!

The revamped Teen Canteen will be similar to the one you remember – open day and night, a fun place to hang out, with

an ongoing slide show of Saudi memories spanning decades, free snacks, drink specials throughout the day, and much more to see and do. Of course there will be music-making into the wee hours, and lots of pool-playing. Just like the good old days.

The Suq next door will boast a mini-bazaar filled with fabulous stuff from the Saudi of old and new. If you would like to reserve space in the Suq please send an email to june@aramco-brats.com. Just provide your name and contact info along with what you intend to sell.

Old friends can post notes, make plans and meet up in the registration/raffle area next door.

Of course a Class Party night will also be planned for Brats to hang with ex-classmates and marvel at how everyone's life has played out.

Beach Trip. Just like in Saudi, we'll be planning a Beach Trip for the entire family! We'll be coordinating bus trips to take Brats and their families to a nearby beach to enjoy the full California experience, including sandy feet and gritty hair. You can even fall asleep on the (quick) trip back.

Final Banquet. The Final Banquet is the last chance for all the attending Brats, friends and families to come together to enjoy a wonderful dinner, and this year the Reunion Committee is planning a lovely banquet with some special Saudi/California touches.

Aside from the planned events, there are world-class museums (the Getty, LACMA), family fun parks everywhere (Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott's Berry Farm), miles of beaches (surfing, snorkeling, body-

boarding) and everything Hollywood has to offer, from the Walk of Fame to the Wax Museum to the A-list nightclubs and bars where your favorite celebrities hang out. Don't miss out.

This is your chance to enjoy a Brat Reunion and a once-in-a-lifetime California vacation. Reserve your room now!

We look forward to seeing you there!

CLEAN OUT YOUR TENT NOW

Our next Reunion is less than a year away, and two of the most exciting parts of a Brat Reunion are the Raffle and Auction. They offer a wonderful opportunity to pick up some great Middle Eastern and Aramco memorabilia. We depend entirely on generous donations from brats, parents, teachers, and other friends

of AramcoBrats. As you are doing your spring cleaning, a summer move, or any type of closet/garage/storage clean-up, if you run across any boxes of items from your time in the Kingdom, please keep us in mind. If you have anything that you would like to consider donating to us, please email raffleauction@aramco-brats.com.

ARAMCO BRAT REUNION



LOS ANGELES
2009

*Aramco Brats finally have their own
"Hollywood Walk of Fame" Star!*



REUNION TEMPTATIONS (Continued from page ١)

Have you ever smelled fresh rain, only to feel a jolt as your mind transports you to your back steps as you witnessed a rare Saudi downpour? Or walked outside on a summer morn with the sun blazing on your skin, only to flash back to emerging from MEA at the end of your boarding school year and experiencing the delicious rush of hot, oppressive heat? That's the subconscious unearthing your past, but it is subtle, and ever so fleeting. These reunions are so much more tangible and lasting—they provide actual experiences to span the gap.

What is it about our group? What do I share with this immensely diverse crowd? How is it that I know that there is something special inside us that we all share? What does it mean to me?

There is the sensation of looking across a room and thinking, — I know that person — who is it? So you walk over and begin talking. The laugh lines are there, but weren't before; the hair is gone, where it was full before...you've gained so much weight...who are you, do I KNOW you?? And then, a particular smile, or mode of expression brings immediate recognition, and a flood of memories emerge. "Yes! Yes! It's You! — Do you remember...? What the hell have you been doing these last 30 or 40 years?" — And, as the conversation continues, the laugh lines fade, and you focus on the eyes, and the laugh, and the speech pattern — and you are connected with an earlier time. Nope, little Jimmy hasn't changed that much — he's just grown up to a very interesting adult. Your memories of the good times you had together come surging back. Any hiccups from your former relationship are banished and forgotten. Any insecurities you may have felt seem so insignificant now— it's a revelation, and quite entertaining, to learn how others perceived you then.

And then there is the revived sense of community. You recognize a name of someone whom you admired as a "big kid", but who probably never noticed you. So you approach... "you probably don't remember me, but I lived in your neighborhood, or our parents were friends..." "Oh my goodness" says he or she, "of course I remember you...I remember you always following your big brother around, or I remember you waddling around the tennis courts in diapers, or I remember how feisty you were". These are perspectives that you never had, but which fill in the picture of your early years with new color and dimension.

Or, you are approached by one of the "little kids", now all grown up and remarkably, looks about your same age! You hear that you had befriended that person — and that they have always been grateful; or that they had a serious crush on you. Knowing such things, even decades after they happened, emits a surprising swell of pride, and you cannot help but like this person whom you never would have dared to hang with yesteryear. Now, you simply want to get to know all about him or her.

Certain buzzwords resonate — "the Hill", "student rec", the "big slide", "King's Road", the "hobby farm", "sandroses", "Tri-D's", "Half-

Moon-Bay camp-outs", "long vacation", "short vacation", (which of course is longer than most "vacations" stateside), and even "SURPLUSSED" (pardon the expression). With this group, you can finally share with impunity — and no sense of "spoiled rich kid guilt" — those great times in Rome, or London, or Beirut — or the bunkbeds on the planes. As you listen, so many memories are resurrected— memories that have, until now, escaped you, and in which there is much to treasure.

There is laughter; there are tears; there are heated discussions; there are conflicting recollections — and there is music! Amazing, some of the same band members who played when you learned to dance get together after oh, so many years, and they jam remarkably well, and yield an incredible sound — or perhaps our hearing is superseded by the sense of "being there then". You cannot help but get up and dance, and are taken back to each and every Tri-D.

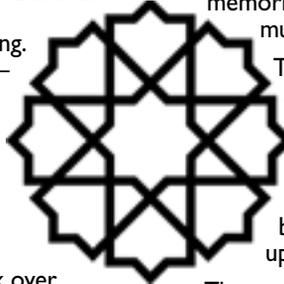
There are those who have stayed up all night who have lost their voices — and some their sobriety. There are those who have retired early, so as to get up to enjoy a morning swim or just hang out at the pool. In short, there are brats of every ilk — those who made up the community in which you lived so many years ago. As you look around, you see your friends and their siblings, your swimming coach, those who babysat you, or whom you babysat. And in your mind you can see them hanging out at the pool, the pool hall, Half Moon bay, the tennis courts, Kings Road Stadium, or the jebels as if it were yesterday... and you see them now, well into their journeys through life. You have a sense of pride of the caliber of folk you were privileged to know in your youth. It's simply amazing to see where those journeys have taken your childhood community of friends. It's even more astounding when you consider that you started in the same place as most of them.

I experienced all of the above at my first Tucson reunion, which I flew half way 'round the world (from Dhahran) to attend. So glad I did, as I vowed then that I would try to make every one of them! As when the reunion is over, sadness reigns — regrets of those conversations you never got around to, people you wanted to see, but never came across. But then, there's always the next reunion, which you are now assured you don't want to miss.

I was 26 before I really felt a part of the U.S. community--when I went to law school. Only then did I experience a situation in which we all needed one another to get us through a major reorientation of our approach to school, our way of thinking and the demands of our professors. Only we understood what we were going through. This is undoubtedly the situation in which our parents and, by extension, we brats, were presented with when we found ourselves living in a foreign country, having to adapt to far fewer goods and services than we had been used to, and having to learn to appreciate the different cultures in our community. Perhaps that is why the "bond that ties" is so strong among us.

With fondness toward my fellow brats — see you in LA

Randa Owen-Williams DH'65 (Go Bruins!)



Editor's Note

Dean L. Barnes DH'67 - Publications Director

This issue finds us in a state of transition. New board members are arriving, old ones leaving. Some older brats are looking around and finding that they are...well "older". And some younger brats are finding that they are catching up. By recognizing and celebrating the commonality of our upbringing, the ABI assists in bringing together the children of Aramco employees, who, today, come from a broad spectrum of ages, geographic location, occupations, and interests.

The 2009 ABI Reunion in Los Angeles is shaping up nicely. It's exciting to watch and be a part of the efforts to put together this next reunion. Although,

it may look easy to some, an Aramco-Brat reunion is only possible through the coordinated efforts of many brat, and brat-related, volunteers.

The ABI is your organization and your involvement can help ensure that we keep doing the things you want us to do. Here's how you can participate. First, please pay your AdBak. It's not much and it helps us pay our basic expenses. Second, make a donation and join the acknowledged ranks of other brats who chose to go beyond the basic AdBak contribution. Third, read the article about contributing to the photo slide show for the reunion, dig up your photo albums and send some images in. Even if you

can't attend the reunion, you can send some of your favorite pictures of "the old country". Fourth, hunt through your closets and storage bins for Arabian memorabilia to contribute to the Suq. Fifth, contribute to the newsletter or website. Is there a story that you think should be covered? Why not volunteer to assemble the story with our help. Sixth, give us feedback on how we are doing and where you think we should be going with this organization. Finally, please consider running or applying for a board position. There's plenty of work to do, but you'll have fun doing it and you'll find that serving as an ABI board member is one of the most rewarding social contributions you can make.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Doug Webb DH'72—Treasurer

As of this writing, although Ramadan is in full swing, the ABI is already starting to provide the LA Reunion Committee with funds needed to make the 2009 Reunion one of the best yet. Beginning with what we all here at the ABI consider an exceptionally appropriate logo to mark the event. And who knows, after the reunion is over, depending on what happens during that inevitably memorable Memorial Day weekend, the Brats might actually get a star on Hollywood Boulevard!

We have posted the activity for the first and second quarters of 2008. Due to the need for the ABI to get this newsletter and the important Reunion related information out in a timely manner, the income statement has been truncated and we didn't have the time necessary to include 3rd Quarter activity. By the time you receive this newsletter, or shortly thereafter, that data should be available on our Aramco-Brats.com website, and will be updated for our next newsletter early in 2009. We still have hope that the ease of being able to pay your AdBak

(Administrative Baksheesh) online at Aramco-Brats.com will result in more participation, which has been lackluster to date. Just a reminder: the current AdBak period is the two year period beginning January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. Paying your AdBak guarantees receipt of your own personal copy of the 2009 Brat Directory, which will be published just prior to the Reunion.

Although AdBak payments are somewhat slow, the percentage of you who have included a little more in the form of a donation has increased. Some have even gone so far to donate a hundred dollars, and even more. Every one of you are extended a heartfelt "shukran kabir wajiid!" from the ABI, and from all who benefit from our activity.

Now to address what is a difficult decision for me, but one that should be viewed as an opportunity for many. I plan to leave the position at the end of the current term in October 2009. I think that serving as ABI Treasurer for two terms is sufficient. Hey! That's over 22 saluki years!

It isn't an easy decision to make, and is only partially based on the time that's required to perform the duties as Treasurer. Rather, I think it's important that, as in all of the Board positions, we get as many people to participate as possible. Besides, I think that unless we contract out the accounting responsibility, a periodic change in the Treasurer's position, in particular, is a good idea.

The exposure to all things Aramco Brat; whether it be the constant communication and exchange of ideas with the great people that serve on the Board, or hearing from long lost friends as a result of the visibility, have made this a very rewarding experience.

In this wide and wonderful Brat community, there have to be several bean, quirsh, or halalah counters out there (whether actual, ex, closet, or wannabe!) who would be willing to step forward, contribute some time, and have a memorable experience as a result. Honestly, my only true qualifications were getting a "C" in Managerial Accounting and not having bounced a personal check since I was twenty-eight.

I encourage you to contact Gary Barnes (gary@aramco-brats.com)

or me directly if you have any questions about what the position is all about.

Please, step forward! Offer the spare time you have that will be appreciated by so many!

And, most important of all, take possession of the Green Ghutra! You heard correctly. The Green Ghutra can be yours!

I look forward to seeing many of you in Los Angeles, particularly those from the Class of 1972!

Doug - (doug@aramco-brats.com)

ABI 2008-2009 Income Statement	08-09 Budget	Q1 1/1/2008 - 3/31/2008	Q2 4/1/2008 - 6/30/2008
INCOME			
4100 Contributions	\$19,500.00	-	\$2,306.95
4200 Special Events Revenue	-	-	-
4300 Website Revenue	\$10.00	-	-
4400 Donated Services	-	-	-
4500 Corporate Grants	-	-	-
4600 Directory Revenue	\$8,050.00	-	\$725.00
4700 ABI Sales Revenue	\$8,000.00	\$15.00	\$10.00
4800 Investment Income	\$1,400.00	\$159.54	\$80.86
4900 Reunion Revenues	\$83,375.00	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	\$120,335.00	\$174.54	\$3,122.81
EXPENSES			
5100 Banking & Audit Fees	\$3,100.00	-	\$47.55
5200 Office Expense	\$1,660.00	-	-
5300 Publications Expense	\$28,400.00	-	\$2,808.47
5400 Website Expense	\$700.00	\$191.40	-
5500 Travel & Entertainment Expense	\$4,100.00	-	-
5600 Insurance Expense	\$2,400.00	-	-
5700 Professional Services Expense	\$660.00	-	-
5800 ABI Sales Expense	\$300.00	-	-
5900 Reunion Site Search Expense	\$1,500.00	-	-
6100 Special Expense	\$2,550.00	-	-
7100 Reunion Expense	\$83,375.00	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	128,745.00	\$191.40	\$2,856.02
PROFIT / (LOSS)	(\$8,410.00)	(\$16.86)	\$266.79
BALANCE SHEET			
Cash Balance from Previous Term	\$84,298.05		
Cash Balance		\$84,281.19	\$84,547.98

(logon to www.aramco-brats.com for this, prior and subsequent quarterly information.)

Saudi Aramco's 75th Anniversary Celebration

Randa Owen-Williams DH'65 - Class Coordinator Director

All Photographs courtesy of Annie Barger Hebert

Children – a focal point within the Saudi culture which we all were privileged to experience.

The importance placed on children within that society was evident at the 75th

Anniversary celebrations held May 20-21, 2008

– a televised two day event

which was highlighted on the first day by King Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz al Saud's visit. Not only did children's presentations form a lively and endearing part of the two programs presented to the King, but, reminiscent of the historic visits by King Abdulaziz in 1938 and 1947, the children of yesteryear – those who had attended the 1947 visit – were invited guests of Saudi Aramco to join in the festivities.

May 29, 2008, marked the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the first oil exploration and production concession agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Standard Oil of California (Socal). In commemoration of that event, Saudi Aramco prepared many months to host a memorable tribute, with events at the Saudi Aramco Oil Exhibit and at the King's Road Plaza on day one, and a second day of employee functions.

Gulf Cooperation Council country leaders, Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources HE Ali I. Al-Naimi (also chairman of Saudi Aramco), president and CEO Abdallah S. Jum'ah, senior government and company executives, and a number of special invited guests joined in the celebrations. Among the special guests were the following "brats": Margaret Ann Fitch, Annie Barger Hebert, Alice Fullmer Jandt, Patricia Hills Finlayson, Myles D. Jones, Jacqueline Larsen-Voskamp, Mary Pat Lass, Robert Rodstrom, Judith Bauer, L. Miles Snyder, Carol Goodale,



Group photo of 47 Returning Brats and Saudi hosts

Jan Lunde Osborne, Dottie Mayfeild, David Engen, Mariana Fentress Guion Mabry, Cynthia Hills Anders, Claudia Jean Dixon, David Eric Lunde, James Tracy, Joyceline Haug Kriesmer and her twin sister, Jackie Haug Larson, David Engen, and Caryll Hayden Goodale. Also attending, (though he had attended the earlier King's visit under the cloak of

his mother's womb) was Tim Barger, who spoke eloquently at one of the dinners.



Owen clan - Kristina, Tom & Will Owen (rear); Christopher, Hollyn & Dave Owen (front)

The first day was launched with King Abdullah being given a tour of the Saudi Aramco Oil Exhibit. At the end of his tour of this impressive exhibit, which details Saudi Aramco's history and operations, the King wrote the following on an interactive message board: "Thanks to God, who blessed us with his generous gifts, as we celebrate the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of Saudi Aramco. We

are proud of its achievements and its employees over all generations. You have always been an example of giving, sincerity and efficiency in work and in serving the country. I wish you God's help to continue this excellence for the good of the country and the world."

Guests were then welcomed into adjacent enormous tents which had been erected, housing dramatic, high-tech displays, to hear addresses in Arabic by King Abdullah, Saudi Aramco president Abdallah Jum'ah, and Oil Minister Ali Naimi. King Abdullah expressed both pride and gratitude for Saudi Aramco's accomplishments and its effectiveness in dealing with global energy crises. He intoned, "In the name of God, most Merciful, most Compassionate Some 75 years ago, we were on the verge of completing our national unity and were ushering in an economic stage, another grace of God. What a noble stage it was that pushed us to shoulder our humanitarian role and had mutual effects on the world around us. Accordingly, we never felt fear nor lagged behind but steadfastly played our historic pave the way to the day when the company would be a purely Saudi integrated company, leading world oil companies in terms of integration and management."

Oil Minister Al-Naimi spoke next, emphasizing the Company's achievements in the global oil industry, and applauding King Abdullah's role in supporting major projects and energizing the country's



75th Anniversary Event Sign

economic and industrial capabilities. In a speech by Abdullah Jum'ah, while also praising the Company's successes and future promise, he spoke on behalf of the employees, expressing their

pride in being a part of the Saudi oil industry.

This event concluded with a number of performances – some 75 children charmed the crowd with traditional folk and sword dances and recitations; Arabic songs, written specifically for the event, were sung; the history of Saudi Aramco was presented in a question and answer session with a father responding to questions by his children at his knee. One recitation of a lyrical poem so moved his Excellency, that he called the young Saudi lad of 7 or 8 to his lap and asked what gift he could give him to thank him for his excellent performance. “I want a Porsche and a Game Boy”, replied the young man...and so it was to be. The tone of this series of speeches and performances was a triumphant one.



Placard depicting Aramco children at King's visit of 1947

The second event of the day, held at the King's Road complex, conveyed a more nostalgic atmosphere, and was held in English. Several hundred Saudi Aramco families welcomed King Abdullah and the GCC leaders. This group represented Saudi Aramco's rich and varied culture. As at the first venue, several large tents had been erected. With many costumed in the attire of the 1940's, a re-creation of the King's historic 1947 visit to the Eastern Province took place. Miles Snyder, who had shaken King Abdulaziz's hand in 1947, spoke of the significance to him of both occasions. Miles recalled “We American

kids were able to shake the hand of a real king! We all remember the event well. We remember the sight of the King, seated in a large easy chair atop a colorful carpet, with a little table with cookies on it beside him. He was surrounded by his colorful retinue, including many of his sons. Comparing that time to this event, he said “today, we join not as children but as adults; many of us are grandparents. When we were young, that sense of magic was everywhere, living as we did in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia...Each of us regards ourselves richer, wiser, more tolerant and understanding because of this great adventure.”

Once again, children emerged center-stage, performing dances from “The Phantom of the Opera”, a Latino segment, a *khaliji* (Gulf) dance, and finally, the *ardah*, a traditional sword dance performed by Saudi Aramco employees, in which the King enthusiastically joined in.



Aramco Children waiting to perform for the King during the 2008 Anniversary Celebrations.

The second day involved numerous

employee celebrations held throughout the community. In a speech broadcast to employees around the country, Abdallah Jum'ah extolled the employee contributions throughout the years. He found significance in the King's visit to meet a cross-section of Saudi Aramco employees and their families, as had his father before him, as underscoring the importance of the Company's employees, not only to the Company, but to the nation. The anniversary celebrations, he said, were a means to honor the achievements made since the signing of the original concession, and to reflect on the degree to which the company had helped the Kingdom achieve King Abdulaziz's bold vision for the nation. In addition to the Saudi Aramco-sponsored celebrations, the “children of yesteryear” were entertained by our Saudi friends at private dinner parties and other social events. This was indeed, by all accounts, a celebration to remember!

This article relies heavily on material contained in an article entitled “The King and Us – King Abdullah brightens 75th Anniversary celebrations”, published in the Summer, 2008 edition of

“Dimensions”, a Saudi Aramco publication, to which contributions were made by Ahmad Daldin, Sara Al-Bassam and Rick Snedeker.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MIKE SIMMS AB'78—ABI President

It's that time again. Every couple years around this time, the ABI begins to narrow its focus toward one goal. We stop eating, our kids wonder where their parents have gone, and we start wearing ghutras around the house. Those of our families and friends who have been blessed with our acquaintance for awhile know: the reunion is in the air. From negotiating with the selected hotel and other vendors and crunching budgets, to getting all the information you need up on the Website and preparing some special reunion surprises, the board has been hard at work making sure this will be the best reunion ever. Don't get us wrong. As focused and busy as we are, the actual reunion committee is going at double and triple speed to pull this thing off.

So don't you dare make all this craziness go to waste. Join us in Los Angeles on Memorial Day weekend. Its why we're here. To throw an awesome party just for you and all your Brat brothers and sisters every two years. Oh we do other stuff too, but this is

what we live and volunteer for. We want to see you all there!

Here's one request: Please, please, please make your hotel reservations now. Today. Not tomorrow. Not sometime in the next month or so when you get around to it. Do it now. It will really help us out with the hotel. Besides, you don't want to risk waiting too long and missing out on the fantastic room rate because all your friends made their reservations first. Then, since you have your room booked already, you might as well make your travel arrangements too!

Let nothing stand between you and LA 2009.

And, because I know it's your only burning question right now, here's the answer: starting January 15, you will be able to register for the reunion at <http://www.aramco-brats.com/>. Catch you in May.

Mike Simms AB'78



PHOTOS NEEDED - Give us your best shots

Doug Webb DH'72—Treasurer

For the much anticipated 2009 Reunion in Los Angeles, the ABI is asking for copies of your images to compile a digital slide show of mind and sand blowing photographs that have captured forever our common experience in Saudi Arabia. [If we receive enough images before February 1, 2009, we will have enough time to burn a disk for the slide show that will be on constant view in the Teen Canteen section of the hotel.

Please! Dig deep into your archives. You and your friends at Half Moon Bay. Acting like complete jerks in the Surf House. Shopping in Khobar. Dancing like fools during a Tri-D. Getting sunburned on a Dhow trip. With your Little League team or Girl Scout Troop. Posing with the first hammour you ever caught. Riding on the dunes, or riding a donkey. Sitting in your backyard with the gardener or, better yet, with the "shrimp man". We want 'em all! Bonus points for pictures including Aramco landmarks.. Recreation, schools, houses... and

groups of Brats!

Ideally, you will have the ability to scan your personal photos/slides at a fairly decent resolution (200-300dpi or higher), if you don't already have them scanned. You can then email them, only a few megabytes at a time, please, to Doug@aramco-brats.com, or burn them onto a CD and mail to: Doug Webb, P.O. Box 270931, San Diego, CA 92128-2931. Important! Do not mail original photos or anything that you do not have a duplicate copy of! **IMAGES SUBMITTED WILL NOT BE RETURNED.**

If what I just said above makes no sense to you whatsoever, that's okay! If you have some "hard copy" photos that you think are "classics" you can take them to a variety of places (Costco, FedEx/Kinko's, and many drugstores) who will have either a scanning station for "do-it-yourselfers", or who will allow you to drop off and pick them up copied onto a CD (or, better yet, two

copies!). This is a good project for everyone, regardless if you plan on providing anything to the ABI. Take it from someone who scrambled to load 50 photo albums into his car when being ordered to evacuate during the Southern California fires last year!

Finally, please provide details of the photo(s) as best as you can remember... who, what, when.. and provide written permission from the original photographer (even if that's you!) for the ABI to use the picture in our slideshow, and, if you are willing, for future use in the ABI newsletter and ABI website.

The ABI will reserve the right to edit, based on the number of photos received and appropriateness of content. (Although impressive, I don't think we need to see your dad's 200 gallon still!)

Oh, almost forgot.. not too many sunsets, please, unless they are absolutely spectacular!

CLASS OF 1970

Yalla to L.A., y'all!!

Our class party is already in the capable hands of Frank Dolce and Costa Yiannakakis so you know a

great time is guaranteed!

Tell me we'll see you there – it won't be complete without you!!

– Eileen McDonald Helms, DH 1970

rfhelms@bellsouth.net



Over The Hill for Class of '74 ... and we don't mean "The Hill" in Dhahran. We're celebrating our 50th Birthday together at the Brat Reunion 2009 in L.A. Tell your classmates! Invite our teachers! Yes, the Class of '74 is turning FIFTY (the new 39)! Let's top this hill together, with our oldest and dearest friends. Our class representatives are plotting the fun,

games and surprises, so don't miss your own party! Mark your calendar, save your riyals, barter

frequent flyer miles, get a sitter for kids or pets, reserve your hotel room ... and get to Los Angeles in May for the Aramco Brat Reunion 2009. (HELP! Party Planners? Volunteers? Donors? Contact Class of '74 Rep Karen Alexander at

kla@alextech.com, or call 405.570.5519)



2008-2009 AdBaks Now Due! - Why not pay by Credit Card?

2008-2009 AdBak Fees

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

Help 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

Email: _____

2008-2009 AdBak** \$ _____
 (\$25 US/\$30 International)

Additional Contributions \$ _____

Anonymous contribution -
 Please do not include my
 name in list of donors.

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to
 AramcoBrats, Inc. in US Dollars only.

*Year you graduated from 9th grade and district (AB, DH, RT, UD) 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.

** Includes a 2009 ABI Directory

**An online AdBak form, including a way to pay by credit card or check,
 is at <http://www.aramco-brats.com/adbak.html>**

or you can mail this form to: **AramcoBrats, Inc. c/o Doug Webb, P.O. Box 270931, San Diego, CA 92198-2931**

Don't Be Lost — Help us keep you in touch with your fellow brats!

Address Change Form

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

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

Email: _____

*Year you graduated from 9th grade and district (AB, DH, RT, UD) 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.

Mail Form to: **AramcoBrats, Inc., c/o Penny Dougharty-Maher
 4024 Ruskin St., Houston, TX 77005**

Contact information can also be changed online at http://www.aramco-brats.com/address_change_form.html

ATTENTION: If your email or mailing address has changed, please be sure to go to www.aramco-brats.com, click on the link "Add/Change Address" on the right and make the appropriate changes. You can also just fill in the form above and mail it in. We know you want to continue to receive our electronic announcements and newsletters. Also, we want to make sure all your info is correct for the 2009 directory and so do your friends. PLEASE DO THIS NOW, while you're thinking about it. :-)"

HONORED DONOR LIST We would like to thank the following Brats for donating beyond the suggested AdBak amount since the last newsletter was published. Your generosity helps keep the ABI going! Donations are to mid-September 2008

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Brian Dowling | Mara Unrenovich-Barth | Rayne Gulovsen-Litera | Janet St. Clair-Costin |
| David Knoll | Sheila Zercoe | Russell Rhea | Deborah Elliott |
| Harry Ellis, Jr. | Miles Jones | Gene Colgan | Ann Burba |
| Judy Bryan-Messier | Gene Welter | Nicole Ardoin | Wendy Boucher-Peterson |
| Karen Hanson-Fallon | John Fannin | Becky Ulissey Gardner-Brown | Evelyn Smith-Fulton |
| Albert Fallon | Dorothy Cameron-Sheppard | Linda Lampman-Termotto | Richard Fulton |
| Randy Erickson | Millie St. Clair-Oberlin | Robin Payne-White | Danee Sullivan-Hubbs |
| Dawn Kolb | Kendra Peters | Sharon McQuade | Julee Tindall-Scanlon |

BRAT news

© 2008 AramcoBrats, Inc. <http://www.aramco-brats.com>

BratNews is published twice a year by AramcoBrats, Inc.,
Dean Barnes, Editor

All contents are the copyright of ABI and of the articles' authors.

ABI Board

President:	Mike Simms AB'78
Vice President:	Doug Romine AB'64
Treasurer:	Doug Webb DH'72
Secretary:	Kim Zinszer DH'67
Reunion Oversight Director:	Diane Knipfel-Adams AB'75
Director At Large:	Gary Barnes DH'70
Director At Large:	Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes RT'62
Database Director:	Penny Dougharty-Maher DH'72
Publications Director:	Dean Barnes DH'67
Class Rep. Director:	Randa Owen-Williams DH'65
Website Director:	Dawn Kolb DH'92

No! No! The foosball table goes in the party room. We have to leave room for the sale table in the Suq. And you, lazy cousin of mine, you are supposed to be getting things ready for the raffle. I don't care if it is several months away. We want everything to be perfect don't we.

Ah! it's you. Come, sit. Have some gawa. Relax. I could certainly use a break. We got to Los Angeles early, found a place to stable our camels and volunteered to help get the hotel ready for the reunion.

Do you like the hotel? It is very beautiful. I can close my eyes and almost think I was in Dubai. The pool reminds me of Al Hassa Oasis.

Wonderful guest rooms, spacious drawing rooms, the re-creation of the

Teen Canteen, it's almost like I was a guest in a royal palace.

But enough talk. You have reserved your room, of course? What! You haven't! Quick, quick, you must go right away and make your reservation. You don't want to be left out of the celebration do you? I thought not.

That's better. Now, where were we? Of course. The foosball table.



Requested
Forwarding Service

AramcoBrats, Inc.
C/o Penny Dougharty-Maher
Database Director
4024 Ruskin St.,
Houston, TX 77005

RESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
US Postage
PAID
PERMIT # 2325
San Diego, CA