Tenneco Retiree Club Newsletter

Volume XXXV, No. 3, July 2013

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Here’s Your Summer Edition TRC Newsletter - by Mike Kees

As you undoubtedly know, there’s no upcoming luncheon reservation form enclosed with this newsletter mainly because there’s no upcoming luncheon. This edition has been put together to help keep all our members up to speed on Club news. We, of course, will host a barbeque in the fall (on Wednesday, September 18th) but that reservation form will be a part of our next newsletter to be mailed in very early September. Now’s a good time to mark that date on your calendar because the DATE IS DIFFERENT from the one initially announced earlier this year. By the way, we are always on the lookout for any news from any member who worked for ANY Tenneco company. Please step up to the plate and submit your news. It’s easy! Details are outlined on page 4 of this edition.

Tenneco’s 70th Anniversary To Be Celebrated – by Mike Kees

As most, if not all, of you know 2013 marks the 70th year since the company we all know as Tenneco was first formed. It also marks the 25th year since the sale of Tenneco Oil Company. To mark these momentous occasions, a “Reunion of all Tenneco Energy Exes” is planned for Friday, October 25, 2013 at Houston’s Royal Sonesta Hotel ballroom located at 2222 West Loop South in Houston’s Galleria area. Joe Foster, Wayne Nance, Ralph Cunningham, Cliff Rackley, and Bob Thomas are heading up these efforts. They are also extending a warm invitation to each and every former Tenneco employee to attend. A letter outlining the details of the event, along with links to appropriate websites for registration, ticket purchasing, etc., has been sent out by Joe Foster to a large number of people whose addresses have been cobbled together via various means. The main body of that letter is reproduced below just in case you missed it. You are strongly encouraged to forward this information to any who may be interested and may have been missed by the original mailing. Of course, we hope you, personally, have already registered to attend! But if not, why not do so now?! It’s a once in a lifetime event! Here’s the letter:
Dear Tenneco Oil and Tennessee Gas Alumni,

Either directly, or through the “Tenneco network,” you may have heard of an upcoming Tenneco Energy Reunion, and a plan to create a book about the history of the Tenneco energy businesses. We are writing to confirm that both projects are underway.

Visit this website to register and for further details [www.tennecoreunion.com](http://www.tennecoreunion.com) and read on...

This year – 2013 - marks the 25th anniversary of the sale of Tenneco Oil Company and the 70th anniversary of the founding of Tennessee Gas. To celebrate these milestones, we are planning a “Reunion of all Tenneco Energy Exes”. The event will be held in Houston on October 25, 2013, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, located in the Galleria area. We'll have a reception (cash bar), dinner and program, and debut the Tenneco Energy History book.

The book will include a chronological history of the energy businesses of Tenneco – where we came from, where we ended up, and what we did along the way, with separate sections on TGT, E&P, and P&M. It will highlight our significant events and turning points, and review our effective business practices and unique cultures. The book will include photos, personal stories and insights from former executives and employees.

Joe Foster has a team of volunteers including Bob Thomas, Gary Cheatham, and Dick Hines (TGT), Cliff Rackley (P&M), and Harry Briscoe and Larry Augsburger (E&P) at work on the project. BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP In order to identify, contact and attract a significant number of Tenneco Oil and Tennessee Gas employees.

Please forward this announcement letter to any and all Tenneco Oil and Tennessee Gas Exes in your own address book. You are receiving this note because we have your email address on file. We certainly DO NOT have a complete database of addresses for Tenneco Energy Alums. Your referrals are critical to be certain as many as possible receive the news and have the opportunity to attend the Reunion.

**MOST IMPORTANT**

Please visit the Tenneco Reunion web site [www.tennecoreunion.com](http://www.tennecoreunion.com) and complete the registration form. We need to have your updated and complete contact information whether or not you are able to attend the reunion. On the home page of the above web site, just follow the instructions on the “BE SURE TO REGISTER” tab.
The web site contains all the details of the reunion and the book project. It also includes a “SPREAD THE WORD” option to forward an email to others. Please reserve your space and purchase your tickets early to help us with planning and budgeting. Feel free to contact our Reunion Coordinator at tennecoalumni@gmail.com, or by phone at 713-683-9346, if you have any questions or can provide contact information for others. There’s also a “contact us” email option on the website if you prefer.

Visit the web site often and watch your inbox as we will be providing updates with more details. Thank you for your help in getting the word out about the website, reunion and book. We look forward to hearing from you and talking about the good old days.

Sincerely,

Joe Foster, Executive Vice President of Tenneco, Inc.
Wayne Nance, President of Tenneco Oil-Exploration and Production
Ralph Cunningham, President of Tenneco Oil-Processing and Marketing
Cliff Rackley, Retired President of Tenneco Oil-Processing and Marketing
Bob Thomas, President of Tennessee Gas Transmission Company

May 2013 Barbeque Highlights - by Alton Milrany

On a rainy day where it looked bad for a barbecue, 90 Tenneco alumni and their guests braved the weather and met at Bear Creek Park to enjoy fellowship and good food provided by Spring Creek Catering. We feasted on brisket, sausage, potato salad, slaw, cookies, lemonade, and iced tea.

Earl Sturgeon reported on the latest Explorer day trips and announced future ones.

Joe Foster gave an update on the 70th/25th anniversary of Tenneco’s founding and the sale of the oil company. There will be a celebration on Friday, October 25th at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. If you haven’t gotten details please contact Shirley Vaughn, the Reunion Coordinator, at 713-683-9346.

A birthday card for retiree and Club member Ben Campbell, who will be 100 on July 8th, was signed. Mary Frances Lilley was also recognized for her 89th birthday.

John Bacon made an appeal for members to be Vice-President, Secretary, and/or a Board Member for 2014.

Finally, our Fall Barbecue has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 18th at Bear Creek Park in order to not conflict the October 25th 70th reunion event. Hope to see you on both occasions.

Hope to see another big crowd at the September 18th BBQ; we miss you when you don’t show up and you will miss an opportunity to win the drawing for a free lunch at our annual Christmas Luncheon!

And don’t forget our next Tenneco Retiree Club Board meeting is set for 10 AM on Wednesday, August 14th at the Tracy Gee Community Center on Westcenter. Any and all members are more than welcome to attend.

2014 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for next year’s officers and directors was announced and it will be chaired by John Bacon, past president of our Club. John is looking for any and all who would like to spend a little time helping run our organization. Please contact John at Jhb9844@aol.com or by phone to either 281-955-5758 or 713-305-8606 to volunteer or to ask any questions.
Door Prize Winners

The following Spring Barbeque attendees were door prize winners based on the drawings held at our luncheon’s conclusion. Each of these folks will receive a free meal at our Fall Barbeque to be held on Wednesday, September 18th at Bear Creek Park.

Jan Mattern    Harold Jones    Jim Clark

Nothing like a free meal – especially at Christmas! So be sure and attend our Fall BBQ so your name will be in the hat for a free meal at that always special luncheon in December at the Junior League!

Membership News – by Jeff Stagg, Joe Keen & Mike Kees

We’re pleased to welcome Sharon G. Mainarich (TEN), Mack Parrott (TGP), Harry J. Daniel (TOC – P&M) and Richard L. Echols (TGP) as new members. We are proud to add each of these former colleagues to our Tenneco Retiree Club roster. These additions give us a current total of 691 members and include those listed here.

Contact information for all members is listed on our website (www.tennecoretiree.com). Please let us know of any necessary corrections via an email to our webmaster at tenclubwebmaster@tennecoretiree.com or directly to Joe Keen (see below). Please keep your eyes and ears open for any former associates and invite them to join our Club! Remember, anyone - and their spouse - who worked for any Tenneco company for just one year (or more), is eligible to join our ranks! Inquiries regarding membership in the Retiree Club should be referred to Membership Chairman Joe Keen at 713-899-9020 or at keenj3@att.net. You – or anyone - may visit the Club’s website at any time at www.tennecoretiree.com for a downloadable application form.

Speaking of our Membership Chairman, Joe Keen has announced that he needs to step aside as the head of this function. We sure need someone to come forward and help fill his shoes. How about you? Joe and others will be more than glad to guide you through the few things you’ll need to do to keep this most important operation running smoothly. Please consider it! Call or email Joe or our president, Alton Milrany to volunteer!

Who’s Where Doing What? – by Mike Kees

We all like to hear what our fellow Tenneco folks are doing, what activities you’re involved in, what trips you’ve taken, the volunteer work you’re doing, and simply what’s going on in your life. And we love to hear you tell us about your grandkids! Unfortunately this time around no one’s stepped up with their news. So please consider sharing what’s going on in your life. Keep those cards and letters coming! You can just jot down information on any old piece of paper and mail it to Larry Loyd or you may email your story to him at LARMARLOYD@AOL.COM. Postal mail should go to Larry L. Loyd at 5518 Judalon, Houston, Texas 77056.

My 2013 Fishing Trips (so far) - by Jeff Stagg

In early March, I flew to Florida to fish with two friends for Peacock Bass in the canals of Miami. We fished for 3 days in different canal systems. The Peacock Bass were introduced to the canal systems in the early 80’s. These Peacocks do not get as large as the ones in their native Brazil, but are very prolific and do well in the canals unless there is a major cold spell as happens time to time, the last being in 2010, nearly wiping them out, but some survived and the canals are back. At the right are two that Don Thompson, a friend from Indiana that I have fished with numerous times, caught.
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Then in early May, I left Houston for my fourth trip to Argentina, a little over a 10 hour flight. I was headed back to “La Zona” located in the tail waters of a power generating dam on the Uruguay River to fish for the Golden Dorado. Our group of four included my partner for the trip, Gary Clark, a friend from Florida with whom I have fished with a number of times, and will be fishing with on my next two trips to Louisiana for Redfish (June) and to the Great lakes for Smallmouth Bass (July). As mentioned before in earlier articles, the Dorado are very strong and even the biggest of them jump numerous times before getting them to the boat, resulting in a high percentage of them throwing the lure. We fished for four days, divided into two sessions per day, approximately 3½ in early morning and 4½ hours in a late afternoon session. The first Dorado I caught on the trip was personal best of 38 pounds caught on a 5 inch top water popper (see photo on left). During the trip, Gary caught the most Dorado by far, including the largest of the trip weighing 48 pounds. He caught it on his last cast of the trip. I too caught a Dorado on my last cast just after Gary’s. Mine only weighed 42 pounds (boo), but it is the largest Dorado I have caught (photo on right, below). What a finish!!! Again, the accommodations were first class, with 3 excellent meals each day. I had a great time, my best Dorado trip, besting last year.

If you have a story about what you’re volunteering, where you’ve been traveling, your time in the military, experiences with the company, etc., feel free to either email or postal mail your remembrances to Mike Kees, (mrk1807@comcast.net or 1807 Rustic Oak Lane, Seabrook, Texas 77586). We’ll be more than happy to help you with a little editing if you so desire. Once your stories are submitted and published in our newsletter they will also be made available online under the Retiree’s Profile tab on our website. If you choose, you may also submit your story to Larry Loyd for our “Who’s Where Doing What” segment. Larry’s contact information is back on page 4.

Next TRC Board Meeting Notice – by Mike Kees

Our next Tenneco Retiree Club Board meeting is set for 10 AM on Wednesday, August 14th at the Tracy Gee Community Center at 3599 Westcenter between Westpark and Richmond, just east of Beltway 8. Any and all Club members are more than welcome to attend.
Tenneco Retiree Club Day Trip Report - by Earl Sturgeon

(Editing note: Even though we announced upcoming tours in both April (Schulenburg) and May (LaGrange), they had to be cancelled due to some unexpected medical issues with our intrepid Chief Explorer, Earl Sturgeon. We are pleased to report that things are now back on track but that also means we only have one trip on which to report this time around. Earl assures us he will do his best to reschedule these cancelled trips.)

Tour of South Texas Project - Thursday, June 6, 2013

This trip created more interest than usual for two reasons - we had cancelled the tours for the previous two months and we were going to a different type place for this month. It upsets me if there is not room on the bus for all of the people that want to go. We ended up with 47 people on the signup sheet - but we always have cancellations. It is just part of the game for people our age. As it worked out we had 13 cancellations so everyone that could go was able to do so. It looked like a pretty day for traveling - only the temperature was beginning to get a little high.

We were advised that the tour of the South Texas Project (STP) would take about two and one half hours or more. There was no way we could drive there and finish the tour before noon. Our plans would have to be to have an early lunch and start the tour about 12:30 PM. The largest town in the area of the plant was Bay City but we had heard the food was great at a place in Blessing and that was closer to the plant. We made a rest stop in Wharton and arrived in Blessing about 11:00 AM. It is a small town so it was not difficult to find the Blessing Hotel on the main street.

Blessing, an unusual name, was founded in 1902 by Jonathan Pierce. You recall when a railroad would come through an area people would move their town to the railroad. Well, two railroads crossed at this place so you knew a town would be founded. Mr. Pierce said “Thank God, what a blessing” hence the town was named “Blessing”.

In 1906 Mr. Pierce built the hotel and it has been operated continuously since then. I was very surprised at what I saw. It is very drab and the dining room just has a bunch of old tables and chairs. There is a sign on the wall that says “Capacity is 47 People.” There were 35 of us so that did not leave much room for the town natives. The food was arranged in buffet style with the containers nearly on top of each other. The saving grace for the day was that the food was very good. People come from miles around to eat there. Apparently they did not use credit cards back in 1906 because they do not use them now.
We arrived at the South Texas Project as planned. The Project needed a place that was very sparsely settled and one that had an abundance of fresh water. They found just the place on 12,000 acres adjacent to the Colorado River a few miles north of the Gulf. The closest settlement with a name is Wadsworth. Our host for the day was Sheila Davis, Public Relations Manager. We were warmly welcomed and shown a tape of the STP highlights. The Plant provides some of the electricity that is used by Houston, San Antonio and Austin. It is capable of producing 2,700 Megawatts - a lot of power. Sheila opened the floor for questions, received many and was able to answer most of them. In the many years we have gone on tours we have run into many different guides and docents and would think we had seen it all. Were we ever wrong. Sheila is in a class by herself. She is very knowledgeable and answers your questions but she makes comments along with her answers that make you laugh. She is very entertaining with her commentaries and you do not know what she is going to say next. One of the Explorers put it best by saying Sheila is a "hoot".

We learned that Texas is the only state in the continuous 48 with their own electrical grid. All of the other states share a grid. STP has 1,200 regular employees and 500 contract workers. We were told about the difference in design of STP and the Daiichi, Japan plant that was hit by the tsunami a couple of years ago. After receiving a heavy souvenir coffee mug it was time to move on.

Our next stop was a simulated Control Room, costing ten million dollars, that is identical to the ones in the plant. At the present time there are two nuclear reactors on the site. No. 1 went in service in 1988 and Unit No. 2 in 1989. The original design calls for four units and if they can ever get a license approved and raise the money Nos. 3 & 4 will be constructed. Each unit has a separate Control Room and the simulated room was constructed for training purposes. It is a large rectangular room and three sides are completely covered by lights and switches. It looked like an operator's nightmare. I'm convinced it takes a lot of training and I'm convinced the pay scale is very nice.

Sheila Davis, our tour guide, describes the continuous staff training

All power plants, except hydro-electric ones, work fundamentally the same way. Fuel is used to heat water into steam. Steam spins the blades of turbines that are connected on the other end to generators that produce the electricity. The fuel can be coal, oil, natural gas or nuclear fuel - uranium. One problem they do have with the uranium is storage for the spent fuel rods. The radiation can last for a long time.
Sheila wanted to take us for a drive around the plant so we headed for the bus again. The plant itself has been enclosed by a fence where tons of barbed wire has been added. All of the buildings are close together so it does not take up a lot of room. The Reactor Containment Building is the largest and it is the large dome that you can see from a distance.

Sheila then took us to see the Cooling Water Reservoir that takes the place of a Cooling Tower at a lot of other sites. The surface area is 7,000 acres or 11 square miles and it holds 100 billion gallons of water. There are small lines and six large lines connecting the reservoir to the plant that are large enough for an automobile to drive in them. Some of these lines would only be used in emergencies.

We took Miss Sheila back to her office and thanked her profusely for a very interesting and enjoyable day. I think everyone was impressed in what we saw hidden deep in Matagorda County.

I need to tell you that there was an unpleasant side on our trip. One of our Explorers tripped on a broken piece of concrete sidewalk and fell. She was walking from the bus to the hotel and the walkway had a broken piece. She fell on the sidewalk and hurt her shoulder and leg. Also she received a cut that was bleeding above her right eye. After she was fixed up by several other Explorers she remained on the bus while we toured the South Texas Project. She certainly handled the situation in a calm manner. She seemed to be in better spirits the next day and we wish her well in her recovery.
A 12,000 acre plant with very few neighbors

*Be sure and check out many, many more pictures taken of this event on our website!*  

Future trips in the works include the following:

- **Saturday, July 27, 2013 – Liberty Opry – Matinee Performance** *(This event may be concluded by the time you read this, however because of our editing and printing deadlines, this trip’s report will not appear until our next newsletter. It will, however, be posted on our website within a week or so of the trip.)*
- **Monday, August 12, 2013 – Astros vs. Texas Rangers – Afternoon Baseball Game**
- **Thursday, September 26, 2013 – Return visit to Newman’s Castle in Bellville**

**In Memoriam**

The following deaths were reported since the publication of our last newsletter:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Ed Stafford</td>
<td>April 18</td>
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<td>Gerald George</td>
<td>April 21</td>
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<td>Cecil Pylant</td>
<td>April 23</td>
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<td>Marilyn Cline</td>
<td>April 30</td>
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<td>Al Hartfield</td>
<td>May 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millie Dampf</td>
<td>May 8</td>
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<td>Jim Burson</td>
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<td>Joyce O’Brien</td>
<td>June 4</td>
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<td>Jim Heard</td>
<td>June 8</td>
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<td>Estelle Krumpack</td>
<td>June 23</td>
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<td>Zane Wise</td>
<td>June 25</td>
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We offer our sincere condolences to the surviving families of each of these members of our Tenneco family.
Remember, you have the option of receiving your newsletter online. If you’re not already doing so and you would like to receive your newsletter copy electronically, please send a note to our Webmaster at tenclubwebmaster@tennecoretiree.com or contact any board member stating your preference. Feel free to print out a copy on your home PC or simply view it online - your choice. Of course, you are free to revert back to a printed copy at any time.

Those who elect the online option will receive an email announcing the newsletter’s availability. That message will include a clickable link that will take you direct to the current newsletter and luncheon reservation form if applicable.

Club Notes

Changes of Address

Changes of postal mailing addresses or telephone numbers should be given to Joe Keen at 713-899-9020 or at keenj3@att.net. When you provide Joe with a change of address, please be sure that you include your new telephone number and email address, if applicable.

Deaths

News of the death or serious illness of a member should be provided directly to Mary McClanahan at 713-466-7874 - or her cell – 281-287-9726 or to Wanda Schaffner at 713-266-6244 as soon as possible and please include as many details as possible.

Email

Please send any e-mail address changes directly to our Tenneco Retiree Club Webmaster at tenclubwebmaster@tennecoretiree.com or, if you so choose, directly to either Allyn Stott at allynstott61@comcast.net or Mike Kees at mrk1807@comcast.net. This will allow you to be placed on our emailing list so that you may quickly receive important messages regarding member deaths and other events of note.

Email Reminder - just in case

Please double check to make sure the email address we have on file for you is current. If you have not been receiving email notifications about various events, milestones, etc., we may have an incorrect address for you. We certainly don’t want you to be ‘out of the loop’ because of some simple typo. Also, if you change email addresses for any reason, please send us an update!

The Newsletter

News items for the newsletter or corrections should be referred to Mike Kees at mrk1807@comcast.net or 281-474-1225. Postal mail should be directed to Mike at 1807 Rustic Oak Lane, Seabrook, Texas 77586. Your input is strongly solicited!

(This newsletter is compiled and edited by Mike Kees. It is formatted for printing by Allyn Stott. It is assembled, collated and mailed under the direction of Sandra Grimes.)