

RETIREE NEWS

A Biannual Publication for Retirees of all Chevron UK Companies



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Editor's Chat

The new design of Retiree News has provided quite a few comments, most of which are positive. However, for those who may be not so happy with this change, I have received the following from my contact in Chevron which I share with you now.

“Comments on the lack of colour, font size and quiz are understandable but when considered with the other option; which is the Retiree news not happening at all, I think this has to be accepted as is.

Please point out to any retiree that they can elect to receive this electronically by opting out of paper communications on the Plan website; the admin team can help with this but they need to make this election by logging on and doing this. They can then get Retiree news quicker and can magnify the view online”.

Please be reminded, I do not hold addresses and do not send out Retiree News. This is now handled by Barnett Waddingham and the cost is borne by Chevron. My role is collecting much enjoyed articles from retirees as well as including things I hope you will find amusing and of interest. If there are any other features you would like to see included, you know how to contact me, details at the end of this News.

On a lighter note, when visiting a church in Ash, Kent, I saw the following words and wish to share them with you all.

Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions, yet our roots remain the same.

How true to life.

Have a good Christmas and New Year from Maurice and me.

My Days in Trinidad

Ron Skinner

In the November 2020 edition of Retiree News, Roger Colomb reminded us of the origins of the Regent Oil Company which was set up as the sales arm in the UK of Trinidad Leaseholds which had crude oil concessions in Trinidad.

Petroleum exploration in Trinidad dates back to 1857 when the presence of a large pitch lake prompted drilling around the vicinity of the lake. This famous lake is the largest natural deposit of asphalt in the world, covering an area of about 100 acres and containing an estimated 10 million tons. British adventurer Sir Walter Raleigh claimed he ‘discovered’ the pitch lake in 1595 on his search for El Dorado and Raleigh himself found immediate use for the asphalt to caulk his ships. He referred to the pitch as “most

excellent... it melteth not with the sun as the pitch of Norway”. Known to many as the eighth wonder of the world, it was the Spanish who started to refine the pitch in 1792 and called it ‘Tierra de Brea’, meaning land of pitch – the name eventually became La Brea.

In the 1840s, Abraham Pineo Gesner first obtained kerosine from a sample of bitumen. In 1887 Amzi Barber, an American businessman known as “The Asphalt King”, secured a 42-year monopoly concession from the British Government for the pitch lake for his company, Barber Asphalt Paving Co. It was from this source that many of the first asphalt roads of New York City, Washington D.C., and other Eastern U.S. cities were paved. It was used in the surfacing of La Guardia Airport in New York and also the roadway in front of Buckingham Palace and many other roads in several countries.



I worked on Texaco's Pointe a Pierre refinery between 1968 and 1974. Soon after I arrived my wife and I together with our two children were taken to see the pitch lake as it could be said to be a tourist attraction, although Trinidad is not known for tourism. I remember the hissing and burping sounds from the escaping gases and the sulphurous smell almost as if it's alive. The sun bakes the surface making it hard and easy to walk on, but with a slightly uneasy feeling that one might be caught unawares and sink into the pitch and disappear.

All the major oilfields including Point Fortin, Guayaguayare, Tabaquite and Forest Reserve had been discovered by 1920 and in 1923 a 'topping plant' was brought into operation which produced kerosine and other valuable light ends. In 1929 a new refinery was brought into operation; old units shut down and a Dubb's cracking unit installed. The refinery was built on the west coast of Trinidad and was a valuable source of gasoline and aviation fuels which were moved in convoy across the Atlantic during the second World War.

I started out with the company in the research labs which were attached to the refinery, having come from Stockton-on-Tees where I had been a research chemist with ICI. It was the lure of a warm climate which drove me from the unpleasant experiences of winter in the north east of England. We quickly settled down to a relatively easy way of life housed on 'The Camp' – Texaco's own company facilities for its senior staff and soon made use of the club house, swimming pool, golf course, tennis courts and other such facilities. I made great progress with my squash – I was young enough then to withstand the sweltering heat and humidity!

In the research labs I was engaged, along with others, in a programme of research which was largely directed from Texaco's laboratories in Beacon. After a couple of years, I became disenchanted with the work, having produced reports with the rather

esoteric titles such as 'Continuous Sulphoxidation of N-Paraffins and the Optimisation of Process Conditions in a Stirred Reactor and another 'The Effect of Heavy Ends in Unhydrotreated Kerosine on the Capacity of Molecular Sieves' (I still have both reports!). I often think that Texaco chose Trinidad for this type of research as it was much cheaper than employing highly paid staff in the USA.

I was transferred to the S & D Department as a crude oil and products coordinator. At this time, the refinery was working flat out at 360,000BPD and the planning of the crude oil vessels and off-take of products was critical in keeping up the throughput as dictated by management! We had no great use of computers then and the scheduling was simply a few rubber bands tied together and stretched across a chart which equated to the planned daily refinery throughput. Cargoes were plotted below the line using coloured pins and shortfalls highlighted in good time to maintain the throughput. Blips and upsets to the plans were frequent as there was obviously a huge number of vessel movements from many countries including Venezuela and VLCCs from the Middle East and marine ETAs are notoriously unreliable. The operations were accompanied by telexes flying back and forth between Coral Gables and ourselves as pieces of the jigsaw were put in place in the programme to keep up the throughput. The refinery was very flexible, had a huge tank farm and could handle a wide variety of crude oils. Clean oils were shipped mainly to the UK and to a variety of European ports such as Zeebrugge, Rotterdam, Genoa, etc and meeting the required specifications was always challenging.

I joined Texaco Ltd in the Knightsbridge office in 1974 and the refinery was eventually taken over by the Trinidad and Tobago Government. I had occasion to return to Trinidad 25 years later and was saddened to see the dismal state of the site with rusting tanks and little sign of the frenetic activity of the 1970s when I was there.



A Nice Morning in Nice

Tony Rigby

About three years ago, prior to Covid, I was in Nice for a few days with my wife, Colette. Brother-in Law from Canada was over for a meeting and we were off to see him. B-i-L loves and adores France but when travelling, only stays in American chain hotels. He was booked in a flash hotel close to the Boulevard des Anglais with a view of the blue, blue sea and golden beach, but paying 500 euros a day plus 25 for breakfast was too much for a retired North Sea Tiger and country boy so on Google Earth, we found a smaller hotel in the next street. Clean and friendly, family run, and with secure parking. Most of the time we would be in Hotel Flash with B-i-L, or on the sea front or in a bar or restaurant. We passed an enjoyable three days, Nice is a “hot” holiday town. Very sociable, trams and buses stop at the front door of the hotel and the fare is only one euro to travel as far as the Italian border, or up into the hills. No need to drive.

On the morning of leaving, we were up at 06.30 a.m. to have a good croissant breakfast and get away soon to avoid traffic. Our room was on the first floor at the top of an imposing gold staircase. I opened the door at 7 a.m. to see 18 riot police on the stairs. Crash helmets, visors, bullet-proof vests, big black boots and each one with a machine gun at the ready! At the top of the stairs about five plain clothes policemen each with a 9mm pistol in the hand. Wow!

All were silent, not a word. Colette exclaimed in French “My God, has someone died?”

I replied “not yet dear”. One of the riot police on the stairs heard our exchange, lifted his visor and laughing and smiling said “That’s right Monsieur, not yet!”

A few minutes later they arrested a suspected terrorist in the adjacent room. The owner of the hotel was not impressed as they had employed a total of 38 police on the raid. Far too many he thought. Well, we enjoyed a sunny September break, good food, good company and a nice little finale to the story at no extra cost.

See you soon Nice.

Sagas of the Sea

Terry Nunn

The Texaco Overseas Tankship Association (TOTA) started in 1997 open to all former employees of TOT, ashore and afloat. In those 24 years many members have written stories of their time at sea and ports visited from the early days since the company was founded in 1950. Adding to those stories are anecdotes of working ashore.

All these have now been brought together in a book as an anthology *Lone Star of the Red Ensign*. These stories have been brought together by Terry Nunn who uses them to tell the history of TOT and its role in the wider Texaco organisation. Throughout its 180 pages are many illustrations of the ships, people and ports.

From the early days of the company’s foundation with wartime built T2 tankers to very large crude carriers; ports from Pembroke to many calls at Saigon during the Vietnam War all feature in the story. From the many contributors is an amusing story, among many others, from John Campbell when he met Bob Hope. Terry introduces the book by telling about himself and how the book came to be written. It concludes with Final Thoughts provided by Brian Goodland.

The book has been sent to all members of TOTA and is available for purchase by non-members for £18.00 plus post and packing which for the UK is £3.85. Further information can be obtained from Terry at terrynunntota@gmail.com.

Texaco Models

Alan Jones

It started back in 1986 when I bought my first Texaco model truck bank, it was the 1932 Texas Company Delivery van. I then started to order the annual models direct from the manufacturer/distributors in the USA. What started as a hobby became an almost full-time passion buying more and more models and selling them on to colleagues in the Aberdeen office and to various interested people in the offshore rigs and Tartan Platform.

The collection grew with all of the Texaco Truck series with the exception of numbers 1 and 2, which by this time those models had risen in price substantially. The first two models now sell for over \$2,500 each. In 1998 the models included a "special" model in a different livery. The 1998 model was the 1929 Mack Fire Truck.

Next to come out was the Texaco airplane series, luckily, I managed to get a first edition of that one. The airplanes series was well sought after, but I was limited to the numbers due to the limit being produced in the USA. Again, after about six years the Airplane series started a "Mystery Special" which was the same model but in a different livery. I have the full collection up until 2002 after the merger between Texaco and Chevron. There were only three in the series as far as I know but next to come out was the marine vessels, mainly tug boats used by Texaco in the USA.

Model collection was a very lucrative collectors' market, and Corgi Toys in the UK started to produce some rather larger models to include a full onshore "Nodding Donkey" drilling rig, a submarine on a Texas Pipeline truck, and others that take up a lot of storage space.

I had a trip to New York with Texaco in 1997, where I started to seek out other Texaco models, not available in the UK.

These included the long petrol tankers with special livery such as the 1996 toy carrier No. 4 Izzy's Olympic Games. The collection increased with a further seven long tankers including the Millennium limited edition. The tanker series are all plastic models.

In 1994 Texaco in Aberdeen worked with Elf and Amerada Hess in the CRINE initiative (Cost Reduction in the New Era). This coming together became TEAM Marine (TEAM being Texaco, Elf and Amerada Marine). This opened up an exchange with Amerada Hess with one of their models for one of the Texaco models. I now have 15 Hess models from 1994 to 2007. All of these models are plastic compared to the die cast metal of the majority of Texaco models. The number plate of the Hess models reflects the year of the model.

I was transferred to the Houston office in 2006 and for the next three years we rummaged through various gas stations, car boot sales and the like to increase the Texaco series of models. There are Texaco petrol pumps, a hot air balloon, a Chinese built tin model with metal wheels. These include the Hot Rod series; the Beani Grand Prix racing cars; Texaco Pipeline models to include the mechanical shovel, land rover and trailer, 1962 Chevrolet Bel Air V28 Lithium racing car and the 1920 Texaco pedal car racers.

There are more models released by Texaco that I decided were not for my collection, these included the Texaco garage series in plastic, and the Fire Chief helmets. To be honest the garage series was too delicate and easily broken. I do however still have around 160 different models in my collection to date.

I do have a surplus of some of the models should anyone wish to purchase them. These include the Texaco DC3 airplane of which I have about 25 surplus and there are a few of the truck series available to purchase. Contact me at alanwjones36@yahoo.co.uk for details.



My Family and Career

Dennis Baker

My wife Wendy and I went to the same school when we were four years old and were there for all our infant and junior schooling. Wendy then went to a girl's school and I went to a boy's school. We met up again at Church youth club and that was IT! We have two daughters, happily married and three granddaughters, our eldest happy in an office position, next is at Cambridge training to be a vet assistant and the third girl, at thirteen, has just made National schools 300mt champion for under fifteen years old. We are very proud of our family and happy to see them grow up so well.

I was a certificated Marine Engineer prior to joining Gulf Oil International Marine Lubricants and Fuels in 1970 and ran the Technical & Sales office in Liverpool until 1988 when the office was forced to close following the merger with Chevron. At that time, it was not suitable for me to transfer to the London office for family reasons. During the time I travelled over the northern part of the UK visiting Marine Shipping Companies and frequently visited the Gulf Oil GB depots who supplied our lubricants at sea ports in the UK. We had excellent relationships with Customers and colleagues and made many friends country wide.

Although my period with Gulf/Chevron seems a long time ago I still enjoy the articles etc presented in the retiree News. Well done for keeping us all in contact.

When can a Safety Engineer Take Risks?

Stephen Marshall

Most people would agree that in their professional role we do not expect Safety Engineers to be noted for their risk taking. But whatever our professional role, out of work many of us undertake activities that insurance companies call risky. This could be skiing, or scuba diving, gliding or many of the other so called "risky" activities. In some sports and activities to reach the top echelons you have to take some risks, think of Formula 1, or many of the Olympic Sports we watched in August and it is these top athletes who inspire the young (and not so young) to get off the couch and become active. What about a Safety Engineer who likes mountaineering? I expect many of you who worked in Texaco Aberdeen in the late 1980s and 90s will remember Rick Allen, who was a Chemical Engineer and became a Health, Safety and Risk Manager, staying with Chevron after the merger and moving his work location to Perth in his later career.

Rick is a modest man who I always found friendly during my meetings with him at Texaco. At first, I thought him thin but as our friendship grew, I realised he is wiry with a steel core gained from a love of running and cycling which he undertakes most days to keep him in excellent fitness for his absolute passion of mountaineering. By the time I knew him he had mastered all the basic mountaineering skills developed over years of climbing in Scotland and by then, his view on climbing Scottish mountains is that there is no challenge and therefore little fun in climbing them in summer and in even climbing them when snow and ice covered in the depths of a Highland winter was just good practice for his real delight of high-level mountaineering.



It was these high-level mountaineering expeditions which he really relished and it had to be a new mountain or a new route to really entice him, such as a new route on the south face of Ganesh II (23,353ft) in Nepal which he tackled over a period of twelve days in 1984 with Nikola Kekus and a new route up the south-east face of Pumori (23,494ft) in 1986 with Sandy Allan. Rick was able to persuade the companies to grant him time off work to undertake these and many other major expeditions.

In 1993 I was with him just a few days before he joined a Russian expedition to climb a new direct route up the north face of Dhaulagiri (26,795ft). I wished him well and whilst I admired him greatly, I was secretly grateful it wasn't me about to undergo all the hardships! His reply "Please pray for me – even if you don't believe in it, HE does" revealed his other great passion which is Christianity, both as a belief and as a way to help others, most recently with an active lead in relief aid.

But extreme mountaineering is not without inherent risks and Rick has suffered a number of close calls, such as in 1988 on Makalu (27,766ft) on the border between Tibet and Nepal he was swept away by an avalanche. His climbing companion Alan Hinkes kept watch on the injured Rick during the night, at one stage hearing Rick able to croak "I'm not dead yet". He had several dramas in the Alps, including in 2004 when skiing the Haute Route, he was again avalanched being found with no pulse or blood pressure and several broken bones. Fortunately, one of his companions was a doctor and with Rick's iron will, he was back ice climbing again later in the year. How can anyone fail to be inspired by this indomitable spirit.

A couple of years ago I spent two nights in Chamonix at the base of Mont-Blanc and paid a visit to both the fascinating climbing museum and the cemetery in the church yard. It was a testament to the spirit of

adventurous young British people to see the number of them that had climbed the mountain, often during university vacations, and until recently with very limited clothing and equipment, though a little sad to see those who found a final resting place in the cemetery.

I lost touch with Rick, along with many of my ex-colleagues when I retired from Texaco at the time of the merger with Chevron. This was shortly after Rick had summited Everest after failing twice in the 1980s. In 2012 at the age of 59 when most climbers have exchanged their boots for fireside slippers, Rick set off with companion Sandy Allan in a small group to climb the unclimbed Mazeno Ridge up Nanga Parbat (26,660ft) in Pakistan. It had been attempted by others before and failed nine times. Setting off on 2nd July they had enough food for ten days. For a week they traversed a knife-edge ridge with avalanche prone slopes on one side and friable snow close to the edge on the other. On the 11th they made their first attempt on the summit but turned back. The others in the group decided to descend, but Rick and Sandy vowed to press on again. Their meagre rations were boosted by a discarded 37-year-old tin of fruit they discovered. On the evening of the 14th, they ate their last two digestive biscuits and in the morning, set off early reaching the summit at 6.30pm on 15th July. Returning to their snow cave, desperately thirsty they discovered to their horror that the lighter had stopped working and they were unable to melt snow. "We were used to not having any food on a mountain" Rick recalled. "That didn't worry us but this was a new game. The idea of not having any liquid was scary". Over the next three days they descended the Diamir face, which had not been climbed for two years, eventually arriving safely at the Diamir base camp on the morning of 18th July, perilously close to exhaustion. For this climb of the Mazeno Ridge, Rick and Sandy were awarded the Piolet d'Or award, the highest honour in mountaineering.



Giving up mountaineering has never been on Rick's agenda, and in 2018 he made a solo climb of Pakistan's Broad Peak (26,414) the world's 12th highest mountain. When he fell off an ice cliff, he was presumed dead, however, a cook at base camp spotted a rucksack and a drone was used to guide rescuers to his location. Another lucky escape.

Rick, still passionate to tackle another climb, decided this year, at the age of 67, to set his sights on K2, the world's second highest mountain, known as the "Savage Mountain" because of its attrition rate on climbers. During the expedition Rick changed his plans and decided to attempt a new route up the unclimbed south-east face. It was during this ascent that he was avalanched for the last time, with his death being announced on 25th July 2021.

Rick was a truly inspirational person, and whilst in his professional work life he was committed to minimising risk, the same can't be said for his enduring passion for mountaineering and he chose never to retire to those slippers by the fireside. God Bless you, Rick.

Thank you all for these articles which I really enjoy reading and no doubt retirees will too. So many stories out there and I look forward to receiving many more Ed!

Be Thankful ...

That you don't already have everything you desire.
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?
When you don't know something
For it gives the opportunity to learn.
For your mistakes
They will teach you valuable lessons.
That you are tired and weary
Because it means you have made a difference.

Emails received for which I thank you. Ed!

This is the first time we have entered the Retiree quiz, we hope that the quiz will continue in future editions, as we have a collection of past quizzes, which we often use for our Friday morning Friendship Club attended (pre Covid, hope to be continued soon) by up to fifty people at Fishguard's market hall. **Colin George**

Keep up the good work, the new layout is excellent.
Best wishes, **P Culliford, ex Texaco Pembroke.**

Good Quiz, Keep on Rocking, you're doing a great job.
Regards, **John Clark.**

Thanks for best ever Retiree News and the new format is a big improvement. **Ted Williams**

We love the quizzes so please carry on putting them in the Retiree News. We did the last edition of the quiz but forgot to send it in! **Sylvia Tomson**

A Friend's Thoughts of Life

Anon

I asked a friend who has crossed 70 and is heading towards 80 what sort of changes he is feeling in himself? He sent me the following:

- 1 After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children and my friends, I have now started loving myself.
- 2 I have realized that I am not "Atlas". The world does not rest on my shoulders.
- 3 I have stopped bargaining with vegetable and fruit vendors. A few pennies more is not going to break me, but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.
- 4 I leave my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much harder for a living than I am.



- 5 I stopped telling the elderly that they've already narrated that story many times. The story makes them walk down memory lane and relive their past.
- 6 I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.
- 7 I give compliments freely and generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment, never turn it down, just say "Thank You."
- 8 I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.
- 9 I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.
- 10 I remain cool when someone plays dirty to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat and neither am I in any race.
- 11 I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my emotions that make me human.
- 12 I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof, whereas with relationships, I will never be alone.
- 13 I have learned to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be the last.
- 14 I am doing what makes me happy. I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself. Happiness is a choice. You can be happy at any time, just choose to be!

I decided to share this with you all. Why do we have to wait to be 60 or 70 or 80, why can't we practice this at any stage and age?

Did You Know?

The pilot and co-pilot on a plane never eat the same meal in case one causes food poisoning.

Cracking your knuckles does not hurt your bones; the sound you hear is just gas bubbles bursting.

The construction of the Great Wall of China took over 2,000 years.

The line that separates day and night sides of earth is called Terminator.

Sharks are the only animals to never get sick. They are immune to every known disease, even cancer.

The largest cave in the world is in Vietnam. It is so big it has its own river, jungle and climate.

Approximately 62% of Americans have less than \$1,000 in their savings account and 21% don't have a savings account.

Almost 14% of Google employees have never attended college.

'The World' is a cruise ship where you can live as a permanent resident and wake up in a different country every morning.

Amazing what I find in my archives. Enjoy. Ed!

Quiz

Before I give the answers to the quiz in the last issue of Retiree News, I have received some comments that it is a pity no prizes will be allowed. Because of this, and agreed with my contact in Chevron, I have decided that there will be a maximum of three correct winners who will each receive a £10 Marks & Spencer voucher and this will be personally funded by me.

Now for the answers to the quiz in the November 2019 issue of Retiree News were:



1 Juniper, **2** A large Asian grapefruit, *Citrus maxima*, also known as pomelo, **3** Chickpea, **4** Elder, **5** Peach, **6** False: the name means 'little pot'. Poteen is also sometimes distilled from barley grain. **7** Blackcurrant, **8** Avocado, **9** Dig for Victory, **10** Papaya, **11** The stems (usually boiled), **12** Wheat **13** A silver nutmeg and a golden pear, **14** The seed pot, **15** Apples, **16** Aubergine, **17** Chicory, **18** Perry, **19** Pomegranate, **20** The potato.

In case there is any dispute about the answer to item 20, please see below.

The Potato became the first vegetable grown in Space with help from Wisconsin. Back in 1995, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and NASA partnered to help tubers become the first vegetable grown in space. 16 June 2014

The winners were:

Paul Culliford, Pontyclun. Graham Clark, Paisley. Jean Sands, Redcar & Cleveland.

Well done to all that took part.

??? The quiz for this edition is:

Tree Time

- 1** Which tree's leaves are the symbol of both the National Trust and the Woodland Trust?
- 2** Packwood House in Warwickshire contains a famous garden said to represent the Sermon on the Mount. Which trees comprise this garden?
- 3** Which tree is traditionally regarded as yielding the best sticks for water divining?
- 4** What is the name given to the art of clipping trees or hedges into ornamental shapes?
- 5** How old does an oak tree have to be before it starts to produce acorns?
- 6** Which phrase references a Mediterranean tree and is used to mean making a peace offering?

- 7** Which tree species is the world's tallest? Give either the common or botanical name.
- 8** An adult koala can eat between 200 and 500 grams of leaves each day. Which tree does it favour as its food source?
- 9** Which traditional custom involves thanking apple trees or the harvest and driving away evil spirits?
- 10** What is the name of the famous tree in Sherwood Forest, which according to folklore was where Robin Hood slept with his merry men?
- 11** The leaf of which tree appears on the Canadian flag?
- 12** Which variety of fir is the UK's biggest selling Christmas tree?
- 13** Is the wood of a coniferous tree hard or soft?
- 14** From which country does bonsai, the art of growing trees in miniature, originate?
- 15** Which three coniferous trees are native to Britain?
- 16** Which tree do we get turpentine from?
- 17** Which tree, a 'living fossil', is native to Asia and has leaves that are used to make supplements to aid memory?
- 18** Which tree is the source of conkers?
- 19** Which tree is also known as the holly oak?
- 20** Which tree traditionally provided the wood used in the making of Welsh 'love spoons'?

There must be a great deal of you that can answer these questions, so come along, try your luck. You never know, you may be one of the lucky three to receive an M&S voucher. Answers please to the Editor, (details at foot of Retiree News) to be received by 15 January 2022 by email or post. Editors' decision is final. **Please include your address!**



Retiree News May 2021

Mark Cochrane responded (as below) to one of the items in World Facts that appeared in the May issue of Retiree News, this was: There is a city called Rome on every continent.

Hi,

As an Australian I need to point out that there is no city of Rome on the continent of Australasia.

There is a Roma in Queensland, a town, which was actually named after Diamantina Roma Bowen the wife of the first governor of the state of Queensland and not the capital city of Italy. But technically I would say you are correct if she was named after the city of Roma. But as I said it is a town, not a city.

Yours, Mark Cochrane

I receive lots of different items that may be of interest to retirees, however, I cannot take the time to check all details are correct. Ed!

Golden Wedding Anniversaries

Gerald and Sylvia Tomson celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 19 June 2021. They celebrated with immediate family due to Covid restrictions. Gerald worked at Kingsbury Oil Depot for 32 years and finally at East Midlands Airport.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Dennis and Wendy Baker celebrated on 9 September 2021.

Ken and Shirley Anderson celebrated on 9 August 2021. As Ken and Shirley had moved from Scotland in 1998 to be near their daughter in West Sussex, followed a short time later by their son and family, it was an easy matter to arrange a family party and meal "Chez Shirley & Ken" for the three generations

of Andersons – a great occasion! Ken was a founder member of Regional Office staff when "Gulf" commenced downstream operations in Scotland in 1964.

Mike and Doreen Sinclair on 21 October 2021

Congratulations to you all. Ed!

Poetry Corner

Smiling is Infectious

Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,
When he smiled I realised I'd passed it onto him.
I thought about that smile, then I realised its worth.
A single smile just like mine could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected.

If Children Live With

Dorothy Knolte

criticism, they learn to condemn and
be judgemental.
hostility, they learn to be angry and fight.
ridicule, they learn to be shy and withdrawn.
shame, they learn to feel guilty.
tolerance, they learn to be patient.
encouragement, they learn confidence.
praise, they learn to appreciate.
fairness, they learn justice.
security, they learn to have faith.
approval, they learn to like themselves.
acceptance and friendship, they learn to
find love in the world.

Ode of a Crabby Old Woman

“Look Closer” by Phyllis McCormack, an aging woman in a nursing home.

What do you see nurses, what do you see?
 What are you thinking when you're looking at me?
 A crabby old woman not very wise
 Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes.
 Who dribbles her food and makes no reply
 When you say in a loud voice “I do wish you'd try”.
 Who seems not to notice the things that you do,
 And forever is losing a stocking or shoe
 Who, resisting or not, lets you do as you will,
 With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill
 Is that what you're thinking, is that what you see?
 Then open your eyes nurse, you're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still
 As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will
 I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother
 Brothers and sisters who love one another
 A young girl of sixteen with wings on her feet
 Dreaming that soon a lover she'll meet
 A bride soon at twenty my heart gives a leap
 Remembering the vows that I promised to keep
 At twenty-five now I have young of my own
 Who need me to guide and a secure happy home
 A woman of thirty my young now grown fast
 Bound to each other with ties that should last
 At forty my young sons have grown and are gone
 But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn
 At fifty once more babies play round my knee
 Again, we know children, my loved one and me

Dark days are upon me my husband is dead
 I look at the future, I shudder and dread
 For my young are all rearing young of their own
 And I think of the years and the love that I've known
 I'm now an old woman and nature is cruel
 Tis jest to make old age look like a fool
 The body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart
 There is a stone where once I had a heart

But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells
 And now and again my battered heart swells
 I remember the joys, I remember the pain
 And I'm loving and living life over again
 I think of the years all too few gone too fast
 And accept the stark fact that nothing can last
 So, open your eyes people, open and see
 Not a crabby old woman, look closer – see ME!

*When reading this I remember something Maurice said.
 We learn all through out lives, at home, school and work,
 but no one teaches us how to get old. Ed!*



Time for a Chuckle

An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with bright freckles, spent the day at the zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws.

“You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!” a girl in the line said to the little fella.

Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head.

His grandmother knelt down next to him. “I love your freckles. When I was a little girl, I always wanted freckles, she said, while tracing her finger across the child's cheek. “Freckles are beautiful!”

The boy looked up, “Really?”

“Of course,” said the grandmother. “Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles.”

The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, “Wrinkles.”

A coach load of people on a mystery tour decided to run a sweepstake to guess where they were going - the driver won £52!

The New Alphabet

A is for apple, and B is for boat, that used to be right,
but now it won't float!

Age before beauty is what we once said, but let's be a
bit more realistic instead.

A is for arthritis;

B is the bad back,

C is the chest pains, perhaps car-di-ac?

D is for dental decay and decline,

E is for eyesight, can't read that top line!

F is for farting and fluid retention,

G is for gut droop, which I'd rather not mention.

H high blood pressure--I'd rather it low;

I is for incisions with scars you can show.

J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend,

K is for knees that crack when they bend.

L is for libido, what happened to sex?

M is for memory; I forget what comes next.

N is neuralgia, in nerves way down low;

O is for osteo, bones that don't grow!

P is for prescriptions, I have quite a few, just give me
a pill and I'll be good as new!

Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu?

R is for reflux, one meal turns to two.

S is for sleepless nights, counting my fears,

T is for Tinnitus; bells in my ears!

U is for urinary; troubles with flow;

V is for vertigo, that's 'dizzy,' you know.

W is for worry, now what's going 'round?

X is for X ray, and what might be found.

Y is for another year I'm left here behind,

Z is for zest I still have-- in my mind!

I've survived all the symptoms, my body's deployed,
And I'm keeping twenty-six doctors fully employed!

OBITUARIES

Sadly, we record the passing of our colleagues. RIP.

P J Adolph (G) on 12/06/21 aged 84,
Haslemere

Richard (Rick) Allen (T&C) on 25/07/21 aged 66,
Aberdeen

Jean Ayres (Std) on 13/07/21 aged 77,
Wiltshire

Walter Barnes (G) on 04/07/21 aged 89,
Pembrokeshire

Elsie Violet Berry (T) on 23/05/21 aged 90,
Dyfed

David John Bradford (C) on 08/05/21 aged 83,
Dorset

Arthur George Bricknell (G) on 12/09/21 aged 78,
Pembrokeshire

Gerald Anthony Brien (T) on 06/07/21 aged 70,
Wiltshire

Irene Doris Buckley (T) on 25/09/21 aged 93,
Suffolk

Alexander Cowie (C) on 03/04/21 aged 77,
Aberdeenshire

George Ellis (T) on 17/06/21 aged 86,
Essex

David Evans (T) on 22/06/21 aged 74,
Pembrokeshire

John Wilson George (T) on 05/04/21 aged 85,
Pembroke

Terence Frederick Gibson (T) on 08/06/21 aged 86,
Nottinghamshire

Anthony John Grange-Bennett (G) on 16/06/21 aged 91,
Hampshire

Helen Hadji-Stylianou (T) on 03/08/21 aged 90,
Lincolnshire

John Michael Johnson (T) on 04/05/21 aged 82,
Pembrokeshire

Eric Peter Kirkby (T) on 30/08/21 aged 77,
County Cork

John Morris Lewis (T) on 12/04/21 aged 79,
Dyfed

Paul Martin Nadin-Salter (Std) on 08/08/21 aged 56,
Cheshire

Celeste Veronica Nri (T) on 09/05/21 aged 89,
London

John Pearce (T) on 02/07/21 aged 86,
Kent

Graham William Phillips (G) on 11/08/21 aged 78,
Pembrokeshire

Doreen Catherine Richfield (Cx) on 21/08/21 aged 93,
London

Gordon Roberts (T) on 23/04/21 aged 83,
Manchester

Peter Bainbridge Roberts (T) on 10/08/21 Aged 89,
Inverness

Derek John Short (G) on 18/05/21 aged 91,
Hertfordshire

Michael William Sims (C) on 10/07/21 aged 78,
Shropshire

Edward Skelton (C) on 07/04/21 aged 74,
Aberdeenshire

Frank Snell (C) on 06/07/21 aged 86,
Croydon

Alan Thomas (T) on 03/06/21 aged 93,
Lancashire

B C Tomkins (T) on 03/05/21 aged 86,
Staffordshire

Stephen John Tuttle (T) on 29/05/21 aged 77,
Surrey

Brian David Wilson (T) on 07/09/21 aged 85,
Dorset

Lionel Herbert Wright (T) on 04/06/21 aged 89,
Pembrokeshire

John Yarwood (T) on 30/05/21 aged 88,
Worcestershire

A Christmas Carol

*Whatever religion you follow, or not for that matter,
I found this most interesting. Ed!*

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping Lords, French hens, swimming swans and especially the partridge that won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas? I have now found out. From 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus the hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in this carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
The five golden rings recalled the Torah of Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.
The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.
The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostle's Creed.
There is your history lesson for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol! Anon

Three Things

There are three things in life that you can never get back: words, times and missed opportunities.

There are three things in life that can destroy you: lies, pride and jealousy.

There are three things in life that you should never lose: patience, hope and honesty.

There are three things in life that are invaluable: family, love and friendship.

Editors Last Word

As a keen gardener, Maurice found these words which we totally agree with.

'How lovely is the silence of growing things!'

June Parham McCullough **Editor**

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Quotes

It is during the worst times of your life that you will get to see the true colours of the people who say they care for you.

Anon

The less you respond to rude, critical, argumentative people, the more peaceful your life will become.

Anon

Don't let yesterday take up too much of today.

Will Rogers

There is something that no one can ever take away from you – Memories! *Ed!*



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