TAPLINE MARKS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

A wave of an arm, a turn of a wheel and a major milestone in Tapline’s history is reached on December 2, 1950, at the Sidon Terminal. While Major Albert N. Horne, then Vice President and General Manager, signals the shore control operator, the late Bart E. Hall, (second from left), then president begins turning the valve wheel that starts oil flowing to the first tanker loaded by Tapline, the S/S Samsun. Others shown are H.B. Beckley (left), then general superintendent, Western Division; Walter E. Locher, (foreground), then manager of operations; and Henry Carrington, (rear) then terminal superintendent.

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Noble Comments On Oil Congress Charges

In a series of panel discussions with groups of company employees, Tapline President John Noble has branded as without foundation the charges of bad faith leveled against international and Middle East oil companies during the recent second Arab League Petroleum Congress held in Beirut. As a lawyer and executive, Mr. Noble has had direct personal experience with many of the legal and other aspects of the industry involving Aramco, its own companies and Tapline during the past eleven years. He has been personally familiar with the details of many of the situations which were challenged by certain spokesmen and is able to speak authoritatively about them.

"First, I can say very emphatically that, based on my own experience and knowledge, the oil industry is one of the cleanest industries in the world," Mr. Noble declared.

"However, because of the oil industry’s international

pipeline efficiency greatly increased

Tapline is far more efficient operationally today than when it loaded its first tanker ten years ago. During this period, the pipeline’s capacity, taking into account increases in allowable pressures, the installation of auxiliary pumping units and other improvements, has been increased..." (Continued on page 4)

8,191 Tankers Load 1,160,777,922 Bbls. Of Crude From Sidon

The large No. 1 manual valve wheel at the Sidon terminal shore control station was turned slowly to the left at 10:30 o’clock on the chilly, overcast Saturday morning of December 2, 1950. Crude oil from Saudi Arabia’s vast oil fields, more than a thousand miles to the east, started coursing through underground pipes and submarine lines toward the S.S. Sun- set, moored offshore. Tapline, for years an industrial giant only on design draft boards and in construction maps, was officially in the business of transporting and delivering oil.

The years later, marking its first major operational birthday, Tapline can review a long list of achievements. Most important, the pipeline has transported a total of 1,160,777,922 barrels of oil (official total through October 31, plus estimated November total). The Sidon terminal has loaded 8,191 tankers.

But as Tapline’s pioneer employees will recall, the first days often were ones of uncertainty and great risks. During construction, which began in July after several years of design planning, great problems involving complicated logistics, terrain and climate had to be solved.

At one point, a long delay seriously threatened the whole pipeline project that was to cost an eventual $176,000,000. The company’s convention with the Syrian province of the United Arab Republic, then the Re-..." (Continued on page 12)
On the occasion of Tapline's tenth anniversary, it is a pleasure to review its accomplishments; to ask ourselves where Tapline stands today, and where it is going.

It is not difficult to recount the Company's achievements over these ten years. To mention but a few: we have successfully overcome technical difficulties involving distance, climate and political uncertainties that have paralleled elsewhere in the world. We have increased the capacity of the pipeline from 320,000 barrels per day to a present capacity of 470,000 barrels per day, while at the same time incorporating technological improvements to a degree that has made Tapline perhaps the most efficiently operated pipeline in the world. In our relations with the Governments and people in whose countries we are privileged to operate, we have, I believe, established a record of cooperation and good citizenship which is a credit to the petroleum industry.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the full support and loyalty of our entire work force, and each of you can take pride in having participated in this successful effort.

Today Tapline finds itself facing an uncertain future owing to forces beyond its control. The current surplus of tanker capacity throughout the world and depressed tanker rates have faced Tapline with the most serious competition of its existence to date. In a rapidly changing political world, Tapline has endeavored to identify itself with the highest aims and objectives of the Governments and citizens of the countries in which it operates. To this end we have been engaged in negotiations over a period of years, looking toward equitable modifications of the Company's agreements with Governments which will at the same time safeguard the rights and interests of the peoples of these countries, while preserving the Company's economic welfare.

We can, I think, look forward with confidence to an economic improvement which will permit the Company, in due course, to realize its full potential.

On the occasion of the Company's tenth anniversary, it is a pleasure to extend our best wishes to each of you.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Noble

The Cradle Row

Beirut

Paul, son of Mr. and Mrs. George N. Clough.
Sidon

Basim, son of Mr. and Mrs. Zuhair 8. Shehadeh.

Charles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fouad B. Bou-Abboud.

Kathy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kamil Y. Bou-Zeid.

Kamal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Toufic A. Sebrawi.

A number of delegates and observers who participated in the Second Arab Petroleum Congress, held in Beirut October 17 through October 22 under the sponsorship of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States, visited the Sidon Terminal installations and the Tapline exhibit there (above) at the company's request. They were escorted by Chief Oil Dispatcher Emily Y. subsection (54), of Beirut headquarters, and Mahmoud K. Saab, of Public Relations. (Photo by Nunn.)
almost 60 per cent with an average of 2.52 to 1.13.

Surveys at Turaif were completed. The number of expatriate manpower from the United States. For in—

The company's medical department, the number of expatriate manpower from the United States. For in—

Tapline Retiree Addresses

John C. Kelley
900 Wadsworth
Pismo Beach, California
P. O. Box 2179

Robert B. Lewis
Pismo Beach, California

Benjamin Davies

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The cathodic protection program for the Tapline system was started as soon as the pipe was laid in the ground. Cathodic protection units were installed in each of the four pump stations, Qaryatain and Sidon Terminal. Started late in 1951, construction of the first cathodic protection station was completed in January, 1952, at Km. 1072, in Syria. Tapline now has 24 unattended C. P. units such as the one pictured above. (Photo by Nasr).

Construction of family houses along the 'Line, such as those shown above at Rafha, was first started at Turaif in May, 1952. Trees and shrubbery have been planted around family housing areas in all of the four pump stations. (Photo by Nasr).

In October, 1953, construction work started on the Central Mechanical Shop at Turaif. An interior view of the shop, completed 19 months later, is shown above. (Photo by Nasr).

By mid-1958, the 100,000 BPD capacity increase program had been completed. Part of the program was the installation of auxiliary pumping units at Shubah, Jalamid (above), Qaryatain and Uwaigilah. (Photo by Nasr).

Community centers at Badanah, Rafha and Turaif were opened during the last quarter of 1955. First of the C. C. buildings to be built on the 'Line was the one at Qaisumah. Built at a cost of about $370,000 each, these centers house an up-to-date cafeteria equipped with a modern bakery, ice cream-making facilities and the latest in electrical kitchen equipment. The recreation center (above) contains a cinema, snack bar with soda fountain, pool and table tennis tables, shuffleboards and a library. (Photo by Harold E. Cross).

The billionth barrel of crude oil to pass through the Tapline system reached the Sidon Terminal at about 10 a.m., April 23, 1959. On hand to watch Operating Foreman Annibal Faddoul take a sample of the billionth barrel as it passed through the Terminal's tank farm manifold were, from left, Superintendent of Operations Alan C. Nelson, former Tapliner William R. Hellmann, Chief Engineer Arthur E. Olson, Manager of Operations Dallas T. Pinckney and Vice President of Operations Walter E. Locher. The billionth barrel of crude to reach Sidon was lifted at 0400 hours, May 1, by the Esso Stuttgart on her maiden voyage. The cargo was destined for Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

During the last quarter of 1956, following the closing of the Suez Canal, installation of temporary booster units on the main line at Kms. 256, 539 and 674 (where the above picture was taken) enabled Tapline to increase its daily throughput by approximately 17,000 barrels. (Photo by Rafic J. Fanous).

On April 27, 1960 the first swimming pool of the Tapline system was officially opened at Turaif. The 25 x 60 foot pool has underwater lighting and the most modern type of circulating water system. A translucent, corrugated roof shades the shallow part of the pool. Included in the capital budget approved recently by Tapline's Board of Directors are swimming pools for Badanah in 1961 and Rafha and Qaisumah in 1962. (Photo by John R. Bell).
Badanah

Badanah employees were guests at an open house held at the Government Relations offices, October 17, as part of a Tapline schools program designed to familiarize teachers and students with company operations. (Photo by Nasr).

Turaf

The Turaf Women's Group has elected officers and executive members for the coming year. Mrs. Dale E. Ritter was named president; Mrs. Carl Sharr, vice-president; Mrs. John F. Pfeifer, secretary-treasurer; and Medhanie Chenelope, G. Rush, Jan M. Gyjens, and John V. Torres, executive committee members. The newly-elected committee got away to a flying start by sponsoring a most successful Halloween barbeque for Turaf families and their guests. Prizes were given by the company to a number of tiny tykes who masqueraded with very original costumes. They were: Dudley Booth, first place; Young Quick and Stanley Tracey, third place; and Marlooth Fair, who transferred to Turaf from Turaif, and received prizes for costumes from Aramco-Dhahran in October in a typical chef's hat. Mubarak balls from Sakala El-Jaaf and received his second prize in Turaf recent by the Z.C.C. golf course this year, when it consists mainly of aluminum toys used as sleeping quarters, offices, moss balls and storehouses.

Badanah's youth held a hilarious successful Halloween party for their mothers at the School House. Many characters were portrayed at the festival by the group that included, from left front: Tony Prince (holding the head of his father, Dr. Marcel N. Prince), Rani and George Khouri, Seren Thaddeus, Mona Turh, and Bill White. In the background are: John Naana III, Haji Elias, Jacqueline White, Carl Hill, Carolyn Crossbath (who won the award for the funniest costume at the devil), Katherine White, Cynthia Samakne, Marjorie Ritter (who took the prize for the prettiest costume at Aunt Jemima) and Lynn Hill. (Photo by Rafi F. Fannous).

Rafha

Rafha's outstanding event in October undoubtedly has been the organization of a station volley-ball club, with Dr. Kamal H. Aoun as its president. A volley-ball team, captained by Saad S. Dabagh, has started regular training. What our players lack in experience they make up for in enthusiasm. The company hospital staff at Rafha notably misses Joseph T. Bousa. who left the field permanently after five years of service with Tapline. A farewell dinner was tendered him by Dr. and Mrs. Kamal H. Aoun. Joe, we are told, will soon be seeing much of him. Rafi ge reportedly is spending most of his leisure time doing "set-ups" and "deep knee bends," to remove the extra pounds he added to his frame while on vacation.

The company hospital staff at Rafha not only misses Joseph T. Bousa, who left the field permanently after five years of service with Tapline. A farewell dinner was tendered him by Dr. and Mrs. Kamal H. Aoun. Joe, we are told, will soon be seeing much of him. Rafi ge reportedly is spending most of his leisure time doing "set-ups" and "deep knee bends," to remove the extra pounds he added to his frame while on vacation. H. Abdullah vacationed in Lebanon and the Syrian Region, while Khalifah Ahmad spent his holiday between Dhahran, Abqiq and Hofuf, his home base.

Sidon

Thoughts while licking postage stamps… Michel A. Makdisi, Bulsas D. Heddad, Antoine H. Fayad and M. K. Raskas are among the few Tapliners who work on the survey of the market. In August 1947, Joseph I. Sayre and Stanley Tracey, resident radio reporter also worked at the "Zahrani Camp" thirteen years ago, when it consisted mainly of aluminum toys used as sleeping quarters, offices, moss balls and storehouses. "The Bad Taste Party" staged by the Z.C.C. Entertainment Committee Octo-

Hamdan, A. Hassan, F. Suliman and E. Abdel-Rahman

Wedding felicitation are for Ali Abboud, an order of the Badanah hospital, which was held recently while on long vacation. Ali and his bride plan to live in Rafha town.

Others on the vacation list are M. Murtaq, K. Muhammad, H. Ma'shan and H. Khamsi. Back after spending his leave in the vicinity is housing and laundry supervisor Ali Ahmad Saif. His family has recently moved to Turaf town to set up housekeeping there.

Farewell to Muhammad bin Sa'al, of the Motor Transport division, who transferred to Operations and Repairs, Qaisumah. Muhammad Ramhikiniy, of Storehouses, has meantime returned from a two-month assignment in Badanah station.

Hamdan, Hassan bin Ali, wife of our senior laundry operator, is recovering successfully from major surgery at the Badanah Base Hospital.

Beirut

A Fiden Flexewriter machine has been ordered for the Central Welding Shop, to be used for preparing standard stock catalog sheets and typing foreign materials requirements. Flexewriter simplifies the issuance of such catalog sheets and requisitions and reduces the number of man-hours needed to proof-read them. The machine will be received in Beirut in January, 1961. Meanwhile, a similar machine has been rented.

The "Bad Taste Party" staged by the Z.C.C. Entertainment Committee Octo-

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Facility members of the National College of Covington for Sidon Terminal installation with E. Ritter has been entrusted with the new Sakala, of Beirut Public Relations (left from right), as part of a Tapline schools program designed to familiarize teachers and students with company operations. (Photo by Naar).
November 18 at 12:45 p.m.

A warm welcome is extended to Emile el-Fahed, who moved here with his family from Turail to serve as Qaisumah station's storekeeper. With Tapline for more than a year now, Mr. el-Fahed originally was a materials specialist.

Many farewell functions, including dinner parties hosted by Station Superintendent and Mrs. Horace C. Davis and Senior Radio Technicians Hendrick C. Van Putten, were given in October to Mr. and Mrs. Louis M. Blais to wish them good luck on their return "home." Mr. Blais joined Tapline three years ago at Turail as lead maintenance mechanic. His last job classification at Qaisumah was assistant operations foreman.

October marks another month, and colleagues departed as Daud Salim, Ali Ghanim and Muhammad Omar left the field permanently. Messrs. Salim and Ghanim joined the company in shift foremen in 1950 and 1952, respectively. Mr. Omar joined the company ranks in August, 1951, as a general helper.

Qaisumah's welcome wagon happily receives Station Operations Foreman and Mrs. William R. Pickert and infant son, William Jr., on return from vacation in the United States. William Jr. was born in the States last July. Hendrick C. Van Putten has resumed his duties as Senior Radio Technician after spending a memorable holiday in Lebanon with his wife, who had arrived in Beirut by ship from the Netherlands especially for the occasion.

The list of vacations includes Omar Awadh, Fahed Raahib and Saleh Khattab. Leaves are over, however, for Awadh Sharaf, Muhammad Al-Ali, Muhammad Musabark, Salim Abdel-Aziz and Marwan Salih.

Station electrical instruments were delivered by Mathys H. Gerba of the Tapline offices. The group then knuckled down to the three locations where 3,750 square feet of building space is located.

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Student at the Qaisumah Amirate School pose for a picture with their teachers before leaving the school building for recess. (Photo by Hendrick C. Van Putten.)

November 18 at 12:45 p.m.

Weight: 7 pounds.

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public of Syria, was signed September 11, 1947, shortly after construction had begun. But, in the spring of 1949, with the pipeline construction pushing rapidly westward across Saudi Arabia, final approval to cross Syria still had not been obtained.

At this stage, although millions of dollars already had been spent on construction, there was danger that the project would have to be abandoned. Serious consideration was given to an alternate plan to route the pipeline south of its present position and through Egypt. Under this plan, the line was to be floated across the Red Sea, then routed up the west coast of the Sinai Peninsula, under the Suez Canal north of Alexandria. Considerable preliminary engineering work was done and discussions were held in Cairo in November, 1949, with the Egyptian government. King Farouk, then ruler of Egypt, was enthusiastic about the idea.

Not until May, 1949, when the Tapline convention was ratified by the Syrian parliament, did the pipeline become a certainty. The formidable jobs of building main pump stations, putting down the pipeline road that today carries ever increasing loads of commercial goods, of developing water supplies and constructing homes along the line, commenced, hospitals, the Aramco buildings, employees' schools, community and employee development programs, and, certainly not least, the many technological developments that have increased the pipeline's original daily capacity from 120,000 barrels to a present 470,000 barrels.

During construction, industry innovations introduced by Tapline had included use of pipelines as large as 36-31 inches in diameter and as thin as a quarter of an inch; restrained, above-ground construction, highly controversial, was used and proved practical on much of the line. Subsequently, application of the theory of combined stress raised operating pressures to the highest levels in the industry. Unattended gas-turbine powered pumping units were introduced. A surge-control system was devised and the latest VHF communications techniques were applied, for the first time in private industry. Operations research techniques employing a simulation model and electronic computer were undertaken with affiliated companies and are continuing, with a view toward effecting further improvements in the future.

CHAMIEH, SALIBA STUDY IN NEW YORK

Assistant chief accountant Suhail M. Chamieh and Kafim N. Saliba, supervisor, analysis and bookkeeping section, are in New York to attend a Mobil Oil Company training course in management. They also will review accounting reports at Tapline's New York Office and tour Aramco's comptroller and treasurer's office and the I.B. M. center. The two men are scheduled to return to Beirut headquarters by December 10.

COMPANY MARKS TENTH YEAR OF OPERATIONS

(Continued from page 1)

of the Texaco, Inc.; Fred Davies, of Aramco, and dozens of others who were or were to become famous names in the world oil industry, took their places under a temporary shelter built near the shore controls. A. N. Horne, then general manager, spoke briefly, informally and without notes.

Appropriately, the ceremonial task of turning the valve that released the first barrel of oil was carried out by the late B. E. Hull, dean of world pipeline experts and Tapline's first president. At 10:30 a.m. Mr. Hull began turning the No. 1 valve wheel.

"It was a simple, solemn moment," Vice President W. A. Campbell, then Assistant General Manager and Manager of Government Relations, recalled. "There was no applause, Theresa, handing—shaking all around.

Mr. Hull, W. R. Welden, then foreman of operations, and others continued opening valves, which were then and hand-operated, but which have since been automated. Most of the guests then boarded launches and paid a ceremonial visit to the S/S Petersen and the S/S Kency, also at Sidon, along with the S/S Olympic Lassie, to pick up first-day cargoes of crude. Back ashore, champagne corks popped before the group headed back to Beirut, where that evening a party marking the occasion was held at the home of Mr. Horne for Lebanese cabinet members and various other government officials.

On December 2, 1950, Tapline's large physical plant was only a skeleton of what was to come. For years the prime concern was, and had to be, completing a basic oil operations facility. The Sidon area was a mass of partly exposed pipes, unlandscaped and strewn with large rocks. The main pump stations consisted chiefly of pump houses and their diesel pumps and construction—days barracks. Men lived in 16x16-foot aluminum huts.

Wives and children were still back home. F. W. New, then project engineer, recalls the hectic nature of the early days. "I had a half day in Beirut to get married and honeymoon," Mr. New said. "The boss said I had to be back at 6 A.M. (now Qaryatain, Jordan) the next day."

And the next day Mr. New was there with his bride, the former Kay McCluskey of New York, living in a 16x16 hut.

Still to come were family and bachelor permanent housing along the line, community centers, hospitals, the Aramco buildings, employees' schools, community and employee development programs, and, certainly not least, the many technological developments that have increased the pipeline's original daily capacity from 120,000 barrels to a present 470,000 barrels.

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Tapline's use of floating rafts to solve the problem of changing the 13-foot-in-diameter metal roofs on the two Sidon Terminal shore storage tanks (see Pipeline Periscope for May, 1969) is attracting industry-wide interest. Pictured above is a photograph of a clipping from a recent issue of Pipeline Industries (published in Houston, Texas) introducing the simple, time-saving method to its readers. Several Major United States dailies also carried a U.P.I. bulletin, the lead paragraph of which read: 'SIDON, Lebanon — The newest thing a— float in this ancient Mediterranean port city is a raft launched inside an oil storage tank.'