Magdi Sibai Takes B.S. During Offduty Hours

Magdi Ibrahim Sibai of Sidon Terminal capped several years of academic pursuits on June 28 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the American University of Beirut. The Tapline graduate earned the AUB degree while doing a full-time job with the company at the terminal Laboratory Tester.

From October 1961 and until his graduation, Magdi had been squeezing his work and scholastic schedules into 24-hour days. Tapline covered a substantial percentage of Magdi’s tuition fees and book supplies under the Educational Refund Plan, while he paid the rest and arranged for the 120-kilometer daily roundtrip transportation problem between Sidon and Beirut.

A native of Alexandria, the 27-year-old Tapliner had been fostering the idea of obtaining a B.Sc. since he graduated with honors from Gerard Institute in Sidon in 1956. Nine years and many obstacles later, he reached his goal.

Magdi obtained his High School diploma from International College, Beirut, in June 1958—three months before joining Tapline at Sidon as Oil Tester. He was promoted to Laboratory Tester in March 1961. In October that year, he enrolled as a freshman at Haigazian College in Beirut, moving to AUB as a sophomore in October 1962.

Tapline’s Laboratory Tester Magdi Sibai, of Sidon Terminal, at the AUB Jafet Library. (Photo by Nasr).

The Tapline Board of Directors has recently authorized construction of two 500,000 barrel crude oil storage tanks at the Sidon Terminal.

Added to the twenty 300,000 barrel tanks in the hill Tank Farm, and the two 100,000 barrel tanks in crude service on shore, the new tanks will house gross crude oil storage capacity from 3,800,000 to 4,800,000 barrels.

These will be among the largest tanks presently in use at any oil installation in the Middle East. Each tank will have a diameter of 213 feet and a height of 56 feet.

The new tanks will be located northeast of the present Tank Farm, on land purchased several years ago for possible Tank Farm expansion. They will tie into the present Tank Farm manifold by extending one of the existing 20-inch lines.

The additional storage capacity is expected to offer several important advantages in the operation of the pipe line. Occasions frequently arise during long port closures caused by winter storms when pipe line throughput must be reduced because of full tanks at Sidon. These occasions should be much less frequent after the additional storage is in service.

Also, following long port closures there have been frequent occasions when the large number of tankers standing by during the storm have rapidly depleted the available crude when the storm was over and loading resumed. Vessels arriving thereafter frequently sustained long and costly delays while awaiting crude oil. The additional storage is expected to reduce such delays, thereby improving the turnaround time of tankers calling at Sidon, and thus maintaining the position of Sidon as an efficient loading terminal.

Present plans call for the new tanks to be completed and ready for use in the late summer of 1966.
On April 29, 1951, and during the hectic days of Tapline recruiting, Ibrahim Ahmed was picked out, from a long row of persons seeking employment, for the job of kitchen boy at Turaif. Originally from Soukki, Ibrahim came to Saudi Arabia with his older brother, Nour, some 18 years ago. While our Spotlight Man stayed in Dhahran, his brother made regular business trips between the Desert Kingdom and Bahrain. But in 1959, Nour died in Bahrain and Ibrahim was left without even documentary evidence of birth and nationality.

Six years later, Ibrahim gained Saudi Arabian citizenship by royal decree.

With Tapline, Ibrahim advanced quickly. He became a water of the Tapline Young hall within five months. In January 1952, he had been promoted to assistant cook. In September 1953, he was made steward and a year later, cook.

After serving as housing steward during 1953, he was promoted to chef in March 1956.

The slim, witty and light-hearted Ibrahim was transferred to Bahrein in 1962 where he attained his present status as chief steward. An excellent shuffleboard player the tapliner champion in 1953, who also enjoys billiards, table tennis and golf, Ibrahim has the distinction of having learned his English through the-job, Development School and private lessons.

Ibrahim is married and the proud father of three tiny tots—Rimal, Khalil and Usama. The family lives in a Saudi Home Ownership Plan house.

George and Maxine Heide left Beirut for Paris July 4 en route to Bahrain, after Tapline’s former Coordinator—Operating Services accepted a transfer to Mobil Oil, Ltd. as Manager of Pipeline Planning.

Mr. Heide, whose position here as Coordinator—Operating Services has been taken over by Mr. M. Falconer, had joined Tapline as shift foreman on Dec. 1, 1951. Following about three years of service as Engineer in Beirut, Salem and pump stations along the line, Mr. Heide transferred to Turaif permanently in September 1954. He served, respectively, as Foreman—General Services, Division Training Coordinator, Relief Superintendent—Stations, Assistant General Superintendent in mining engineering from the University of Washington in 1947.

His 1951 move to Tapline came after four years of service with Mene Grande Oil Co. in Virginia as petroleum engineer.

Mr. and Mrs. Heide also enjoy billiards, table tennis and golf, Ibrahim has his English through on-the-job training. In September 1953, he was made snackbar attendant and assistant cook. In September 1953, he was made steward and a year later, cook

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Former Aramco photographer Tom Walters, currently of Orinda, California, recently set out on a photographic assignment for Tapline at Sidon Terminal and pump stations along the 'Line. His cameras recorded this pictorial review of faces and places along the Tapline system.

Exterior view, Rafha pumphouse.

Interior view, Qaisumah pumphouse.

World of "kids" in the vicinity of Qaisumah.

The Saudi House Ownership Plan house of Ahmad Bakouch in 'Ar'ar.

Interior view of Turaif's Central Machine Shop.
Loading hose being attached to the manifold of a tanker moored in open sea at Sidon Terminal.

Marine equipment, deck and open hanger at Sidon Terminal’s jet.
Iranian Oil Operating Co., J. Bakkum of the Shell Company of Qatar and R. M. Hannush of Middle East Industrial Relations Counsellors.

Mrs. K. L. Tronstad won the monthly golf medal for May with a low net of 72 for 18 holes. She also outscored Mrs. W. E. Locher of Beirut to win the Ninth Cole Cup. Capt. Tronstad completed Bud Ford of Madain to walk away with the Paul Cole Cup while Ted Government's net 133 for 36 holes earned him the Byron Brown trophy.

**Turaif**

Howard T. Jensen is relieving A. M. Lampmans here as Coordinator—Employee Relations and Development. The Lampmans departed on vacation June 23.

W. R. Pedert, who returned from holiday June 8, is relieving as Turaif Station Superintendent during the vacation of Charles S. Bilby, which started June 16.

Aban wa Bahlan to Dr. Aaron G. Barzani, of Alleppo and Beirut, who joined our medical staff as Physician—General Practitioner on May 29. Leonard Brown, who was contracted in May as Services Foreman E. G. Sadaka, who enrolled as General Duty from Turaif. Meanwhile, Teacher—English H. Hamad, formerly of Qaisumah, Acting Labor Relations Representative M. Thabet and General Duty E. Sadaka, Superintendent, Radio and Instrumentation W. E. De Val.


**Qaisumah**

Our hats are tipped for Nurse General Duty S. Habib, Superintendent—Diesel Gas Turbine D. A. De Vries and Teacher—English S. Khatibi, on their recent transfer to Qaisumah from Turaif. Meanwhile, Teacher—English Hussen Hamed, Nurse—Operations C. P. Booth and Nurse General Duty J. Khalaf, have been thanked a heartfelt farewell and a best wish on their recent transfer from Qaisumah to Turaif, Rafha and Badanah, respectively.

Supervising Technician, Diesel Gas Turbine C. E. Andrews left the field permanently in June as engineering trainees.

Manager of Public Relations and J. Helou of the Women's Hospital, Pittsburgh, were given to the couple by the Maurice Nasrs, A. Christmans, Maurice Nasrs, A. Christmans, Mrs. W. E. Locher and son, John, E. Locher is scheduled to return to California. The wedding was attended by Mrs. Salih Al—As'ad, P & T Superintendent—Road C. Scharns and Lampmans, C. Scharns, H. Lampmans, A. Lampmans, C. Scharns, H. Lampmans, A. Lampmans, C. Scharns, H. Lampmans, also entertained Vice President—Administration H. S. Smith and E. Scanlan. They were enter—reich, the parents of our Super—tion Welder, Machine Tool Op—rator—Employee Relations ard trophwy.

Winners of the weekly Howell movement duplicate bridge ses—sions held at Turaif during June were the L. T. Newton, Maurice Na—Mse.—M. R. H. Putnam, J. Stephen—J. —Owod and Marian Na—Mse.—M. A. Chamsa.

President W. R. Chandler and Vice President — Administration H. S. Smith returned June 23 from a short business trip to Doha.

Executive Vice President and Mrs. W. E. Locher and son, John, left on vacation June 14. Mr. Chandler is scheduled to return to Beirut July 22.

Coordinator—Road Construction F. W. New left Beirut June 11 on an extended vacation trip.

Manager of Public Relations Saudi Al—Aid returned June 24 from a nine-day business trip to Saudi Arabia.

Staff Coordinator — Govern—ment Relations J. A. Sabini re—lieved by H. H. Allah, Office Clerk M. Nasser, and Supervising Technician, Radio and Instrumentation W. E. De Val.

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Thirty more dwellings were being built at the end of June near pump stations at Todd, Al—Ash (eight), and Rafha (seven). Twenty more dwellings were being built along the Northern Frontiers, arrived in Beirut June 10 by special RAG Convair flight on his annual summer vacation in Lebanon. He is residing at a Bluebroom summer resort.

Recent advances to Staff Coordinator — Government Relations J. A. Sabini reported back to duty June 8 following a four-week sick leave.

His Highness Amir 'Abd al—A'as of Manifal, His Highness Amir of Hayil and father of H. H. Amir 'Abd al—A'as of Manifal, arrived at the Frontiers, arrived in Beirut June 10 by special RAG Convair flight on his annual summer vacation in Lebanon. He is residing at a Bluebroom summer resort.

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