TO ALL EMPLOYEES:

For Taplin and Tapline, this has been a year of crisis, a year of momentous events beyond our control. We have literally been through fire and flood. We have seen international upheaval, warfare, and military occupation. For some months, we were prohibited from carrying out our normal business. And at year’s end, we are all very much aware of the human suffering which continues around us, as the aftermath of a cruel war. All of us hope fervently for a better year in 1968.

But 1967, harsh and demanding as it was, gives us a sound basis for confidence in Tapline’s future. One major test of an organization lies in the way in which it responds to the unforeseeable crisis. The response of Tapline, both as individuals and as members of the organization, has been most gratifying. Once again there has been an impressive display of individual initiative, and of cooperation and teamwork, which gives us confidence in our ability to meet new challenges and greater demands, and to face the uncertainties of the future.

And what does this future hold? We can be sure that it will present us with both problems and opportunities. The problems will certainly be those of meeting the ever more gigantic competition from the new generation of giants. There will undoubtedly be problems associated with the continuing unsettled circumstances resulting from the war. The opportunities will be to find, as we search for the ways to meet that competition and to solve our problems in a manner which will best serve the continued welfare of the Company and its people. I am proud of the past accomplishments of the organization, and I am confident that we enter the new year fully ready for both the problems and the opportunities.

It is with this confidence and pride that I extend to you and your families, and to all the friends of Tapline, my most sincere Holiday greetings and wishes for a Happy New Year.

[Signature]

Mr. R. Chaudhry
Turaif's retired Lead Materials Specialist, Abou Saba, alias Abdou Saba Shebib. (Photo by Nasr).

Industries in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1945. He was an instructor at the Marine -Officers School, Fort Bliss, Texas, and was an instructor in electrical systems and oxyacetylene welding.

The 30-year service award recipients face the camera with their wives, President W. R. Chandler and Assistant Manager of Operations, M. F. Falconer. From left, foreground, are President Chandler, Mrs. A. Brickhouse, Captain Per Jordan, Mrs. M. Balfour and Captain Martin Rutherford. In the back row are Mrs. Jordan, Captains A. A. Brickhouse and Mr. Falconer. (Photo by Nasr).

Three Captains receive Thirty Year Awards

Sidon Terminal Superintendent A. A. Brickhouse and marine masters Martin Rutherford and Per Jespersen have been presented with a gold waist watch each for completing 30 years of service with Tapline, affiliated and parent companies.

The three captains were fitted with their wives in mid-December at a party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Falconer, where President W. R. Chandler presented the 30-year award to Captain Brickhouse, who in turn presented similar awards to his two colleagues.

Captain Brickhouse, whose service date is July 25, 1937, transferred to Tapline in 1951 from Amoco, where he was employed as Assistant Superintendent of Marine Operations at Ras Tanura. He has also been a relief captain of Tanura's tanker fleet. During World War II Captain Brickhouse served in the U.S. Naval Reserve in both the U.S. and Pacific theatres, and was an instructor in electrical systems and maritime law at the Merchant Marine Officers School, Fort Tilden, New York, and Coast, he is a native of Norfolk, Virginia.

(Continued on page 7)

Four-Star Pin Goes To Wright

General Services Foreman Edwin J. Wright of Badaruh completed 20 years of service with Tapline, parent and affiliated companies on Dec. 23. Mr. Wright was transferred to Sidon from Horrible Oil and Refining Co. on July 19, 1932, as pump station operator.

He subsequently served as shift foreman and assistant operating foreman, eventually being named to Foreman—Operations and Foreman—Sidon, respectively.

He has served in the latter two capacities for the past 12 years at all of the four main pump stations in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Wright and his wife, Miss Helen, have a 23-year-old daughter, Linda Sue, who is married in the United States to F. W. Phillips who is associated with Kelly Springfield Tire Co.
CENTRAL STOREHOUSES' NEW LOOK

One of the many things started during the year’s 104-day shutdown to prepare for the resumption of normal operations was the cleanup and realignment of Quonset Huts and yard at the Central Storehouses in Turuif.

The Periscope camera lens offers these “before” and “after” pictures of the program aimed at improving the checking, storage and accessibility of material supplies at the Central Storehouses.

[PHOTOS BY NASR]
Badanah
President W. R. Chandler and Manager of Operations J. J. Kelberer visited Badanah Dec. 4. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ragsdale of Badanah and Albert Saliba of Beirut had a pleasant dinner at the office on Dec. 2, when they were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ragsdale. They are visiting Beirut on a one-month assignment.

Beirut
Hoping completed an Aramco assignment in Washington D.C. as Assistant to the Vice President, Dick E. Garrett returned to Tapline Dec. 18 to resume the responsibilities, duties and signing authority of The Company Representative—Pipe Line Area. Mr. Garrett will remain in Beirut until Dec. 31, when he plans to return to Badanah.

Dr. and Mrs. Ed Wright entertained Mr. and Mrs. Ragsdale and Mr. and Mrs. Kelley on the 3rd of the month. They dined at the office and were surprised to meet Hank Watson, a former Tapliner pilot, who is now employed at the pipeline offices in Beirut. After landing at Beirut, Florida, the visitors visited their families, heading back to Badanah from relief assignment on the States.

Sidon
Good luck to Gate Attendant Gal, who retired in early December. He has a bright future ahead of him as he prepares to drive a large truck. They went to California for the holidays before returning to Badanah. Mr. and Mrs. Ragsdale are returning to Badanah after spending a delightful Christmas vacation in Beirut. They intend to remain in Beirut until the end of January before returning to Badanah.

Turaif
Twifin Station's center town was chosen as the site for the first Aramco Station Superintendents' Conference. The station was recently purchased by Aramco for a sum of $150,000. The station is located near the highway and is easily accessible to the local population. The conference was held on the 4th of December and was attended by representatives from various Aramco stations in the region.

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Saliba and Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Saliba attended the conference. They were guests of honor at the dinner given in their honor. The dinner was a great success and was enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Saliba were presented with an Aramco award for their outstanding service to the company. They were also presented with a certificate of appreciation for their contributions to the success of the conference.

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Saliba are grateful for the recognition they received and are looking forward to continuing their service with Aramco. They are looking forward to the future and the challenges that lie ahead.

30-Year Awards
CAMELI was founded in the late 1940s with a capital of $2,480,000 and is now a thriving company with assets exceeding $200 million.

30-

Captain Jepsen is a retired Norwegian officer. He is a former captain of a Norwegian merchant vessel and has many years of experience in the shipping industry. He is a well-respected figure in the industry and is widely known for his expertise and knowledge.

Captain Rutherford is a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He is a former Tapliner pilot and has a wealth of experience in the shipping industry. He is well-respected for his knowledge and expertise.

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Tapline's path in 1967 was not the smoothest we have seen in our twenty year history. It was marked by a major pipeline break at Shubah, a frustrating 104-day halt in crude oil exports from Sidon Terminal, and a rampaging flood along the "Line which left behind heavy damage, including a massive pipeline leak and several road washouts. The throughput loss resulting from the ban on crude oil exports from Sidon Terminal has been estimated at 47,000,000 barrels. The pipeline leaks caused an additional throughput loss of 631,000 barrels as well as crude oil spills of 186,000 barrels.

However, the vigorous response of the organization and its members to each of the year's three major adversities confirms our confidence for the years ahead.

The pipeline leak at Km. 148.8 near Shubah occurred on February 11. The cause of the leak is still uncertain. A major tragedy was averted at the time by individual Tapliners who took the personal initiative to eliminate fire hazards at the leak site. Decisive action and teamwork in the Operations Department enabled unusually rapid repair of the leak at Shubah through removal of a 10-foot section of the pipe and installation of a "pup" in record time. Total downtime from failure to resumption of flow was only 184 hours.

Tapline and Tapliners also went through a severe test during the Middle East crisis. While employees were shocked and dismayed by the events which occurred, the enterprise itself also felt victims of the war, having had to cease all exports from Sidon Terminal from June 6 through September 17. Many things were done during the shutdown—such as maintenance work, evaluation of possible improvements in ways of doing work and maximum scheduling of vacations—to prepare for the resumption of operations.

Less than two months after the resumption of normal operations, three main pump stations—Qaisumah, Rafha and Badanah—were swept by floods which left incalculable damage behind, including a major pipeline leak, pipeline road washouts, flooded offices and capsize vehicles. It was under such very severe weather conditions and torrential rains that a pipeline leak at Km. 517, between Rafha and Badanah, occurred on November 16. Repairs were hampered by road washouts on both sides of the leak and the pressure, at the leak site, of a large lake of rainwater with a heavy layer of spilled crude on the surface.

Wearing gas masks and working under extremely hazardous conditions, with access to the leak site only by a small Beaver aircraft landing on the road, Tapline repair crews banded the leak without stopping the flow of crude. The incident marked the first occasion in Tapline's history when rubber life rafts had to be used to transport the repair band across a lake of oil to the pipeline. Subsequently, a massive earth-moving job isolated the crude oil and thus removed the fire hazard, making it possible to weld the band. Pumping was maintained in the Rafha-Badanah section at only a slightly reduced rate in order to ensure maximum possible Sidon receipts during the repair period. Loading operations at Sidon continued normally throughout this period.

A few days later, Dera'a Foreman Rateb Bustani sustained serious injuries while on a delicate pipeline repair mission near Km. 1123 in Syria. All in all, 1967 can truly be described as a year of stress and urgent problems. But the basic job of a business enterprise is to solve problems, and if 1967 gave us more than our usual share, it also boosted our confidence in the organization's ability to meet any challenge.