Aramco: 1968 Operations Review

The Arabian American Oil Company produced crude oil in 1968 at the rate of 2,629,982 barrels daily, 8.9 per cent more than in 1967. Production totaled 1,035,773,333 barrels (138,737,217 long tons) in 1968, compared to 948,110,468 barrels (127,262,213 long tons) in 1967.

The company's 1968 review of operations showed that during Aramco's thirtieth year of commercial production the 10 billionth barrel of crude oil was produced. The 10 billionth barrel was produced on March 14, 1962. Aramco has the distinction of being the first single operating company to produce a billion barrels of crude oil in less than a year. A billion barrels were produced in 358 days, earning Aramco the distinction of becoming the first single operating company to produce a billion barrels of crude oil in less than a year.

Two additional stabilizer columns were erected in Abqaiq to reduce crude oil production in the Abqaiq and Ghawar fields. These columns increase stabilizer capacity from 1,570,000 to 2,500,000 barrels per day.

Close to 1,200 Saudi employees were assigned to classes in the company's training centers and training shops during working hours and 59 attended voluntarily in their leisure hours. Another 190 Saudi employees completed supervisory and management courses given in Aramco facilities.

Estimated petroleum reserves were 84,771 million barrels at year-end, a gain of 8,401 million barrels over 1967. Drilling activity reached a peak in 1968 with 77 wells drilled—19 for oil, 24 for water injection and two for observation. Another 12 wells were either abandoned or suspended.

In March the company relinquished from its concession area 25,000 square miles. Aramco now owns in its exclusive area 103,000 square miles. As agreed with the Saudi Arab Government, progressive relinquishment by 1991 will reduce the company's concession to 20,000 square miles or less than three per cent of the 672,904 square miles in the original exclusive and preferential areas once held by the company.

The largest storage tank in Saudi Arabia—a 430,000 barrel crude oil tank—was completed at the Ras Tanura Marine Terminal. Also completed in 1968 was a 500,000 barrel sputnik tank.

Aramco had 11,325 employees in Saudi Arabia at year-end. Eight-two per cent were Saudi Arabs, 10 per cent Americans and eight per cent other nationals.

At the Tapline Board of Directors meeting held in San Francisco on April 2, Mr. J. J. Kelberer was elected Vice President of the company effective July 1.

As Vice President—Operations, Mr. Kelberer will be responsible for all Company pipeline operations and engineering activities. Mr. Kelberer, 43, obtained his Bachelor of Sciences degree in Electrical Engineering in 1950 from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mr. Kelberer has been with Aramco since February 9 in the capacity of Operating Engineer, Mr. Kelberer held the position of Manager—Operations. The session ends on May 8.

Mr. D. M. Falterman has been named to replace Mr. Kelberer as Manager—Operations.

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After joining the Company on October 26, 1950 as Communications Engineer, Mr. Kelberer held a number of positions in increasing responsibility in the area of communications and general operations.

Prior to his election as a Vice President he held the position of Manager—Operations.

Mr. Kelberer has been participating since February 8 in the 55th session of the Advanced Management Program conducted by the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration.

Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Part of San Francisco have received news of an American National Champion in their family. Their 11-year-old grandson Larry Welch of Amherst, Vermont, won the National Junior Skiing Championship held recently at Lake Placid, N.Y. He won the gold cup in his senior age-group for the combined downhill, slalom and jumping events.
Twelve Tapliners from pump stations in Saudi Arabia and Jordan have recently completed a two-week fire prevention course at the Civil Aviation Safety Center in Beirut.

Amending the course which ended March 24 were Simon Tavrob, C. K. & L. H., Vartan Kvistam of Gyananat; Plant Protection Coordinator Tom Martin; Senior Shift Foreman Hmoos Nasir; Station Maintenance Supervisor Hadthis Said and Cargo Handling Supervisor Mike Ahmed of Rafha; Administrative Supervisor Hana; Federal; Senior Shift Foreman Zaid Nabi Shamsy; Lead Material Specialist Abdallah Moton and Assistant Chief Nurse Mimina Moussa of Badanah; Senior Shift Foreman Neuraj Jones' and Station Maintenance Supervisor Fahed Muthehe of Qusumah; and Senior Shift Foreman Said Ahmad of Rafha.

The course is geared to provide training in general fire prevention measures as well as instruction and practice in the use of fire extinguishers.

Lecture on fire prevention at the Safety Center.

Tapline and other participants in the first aid and fire prevention course at the Civil Aviation Safety Center in Beirut face the camera with their course leaders.

Pipe and other participants in the first aid and fire prevention course at the Civil Aviation Safety Center in Beirut.

Prizes were awarded by Mrs. R. H. Putnam, assisted by Mrs. E. C. Olsen, who did the purchasing in Beirut.

The following note was received by R. E. Marsh, Manager—Relations, Saudi Arabia, from Mrs. H. R. P. Dickson of Kuwait during the course of her pipeline visit in March:

It has been a visit with the Manad at Armar, Mrs. Garrison of Badanah was so kind there, as was Shmassy and now in Turaif I have been to me—us—on Tapline.

Aramco Review of Operations

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Armon and Harvard University completed their fourteenth year of joint research to develop a vaccine against the eye disease trachoma. At year-end vaccines were being prepared at Harvard from strains isolated in children in Saudi Arabia. These vaccines will be tested on laboratory animals prior to field trials.

Tasty Amburgers were the order of the day during the desert excursion.

"A Very Big Thank You" From Mrs. Dickson

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Dear Bob,
In the Spring of 1955, eighty employees at Turaif with a common interest in gardening and landscaping banded together to form the first garden club along the pipeline.

Today, 14 years later, Turaif and all four pump stations in Saudi Arabia concur that, while the gardening and landscaping efforts have incurred tremendous time and labor, the end result surpassed their expectations. Undoubtedly, the four afterhour project has added so much to making the landscape pleasing to the eye in the Desert Kingdom.

Amateur gardeners from Qaisun down to Turaif now boast of successfully grown vegetables, flowering bulbs, annual and perennial flowers, trees, shrubs and ground cover covering sand and bare rock.

K. Nasr’s camera lens captures 1969 Spring views of homes and gardens at both Qaisun and Badanah.
Badanah

Badanah’s Swimming Pool Association has elected its 1969 officers as... Amman, April 10. Sincere condolences are extended to Michel Khoury of Payroll on the recent death of his mother.

The welcoming mat is out for Dr. and Mrs. N. Tork who are back from England, where Dr. Tork completed a one-year course in Gymnastics and Aquatics. They have been entertained at several functions hosted by Mr. and Mrs. A. Khalil, Dr. Amer Rayes and Zefer Karray, Dr. and Mrs. H. Warra, Dr. and Mrs. Khiall, and Dr. and Mrs. Safa A. Khairat.

Meanwhile, several farewell parties were sponsored by Rafaha employees in honor of colleagues who have left the field temporarily. Staff Nurse Bashita Khichi, who has left for Canada, was entertained at a dancing party given by Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Najm. And at a similar function given by Miss Najat Kaed Bey, who was accompanied by Drs. Harrison and Dagher, of the Jerusalem, was entertained at a dinner party and at a similar function given by Miss Nouritza Bekarian, who has been hired to replace her in the pipeline area.

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A most up-to-date bakery with an initial two-ton daily production capacity was opened at 'Ar'ar early this year.

One of a total of 10 bakeries in town, the "'Ar'ar Modern Bakeries" has produced and sold a daily average of 800 kilograms of bread and 300 kilograms of oriental sweets during the first quarter of 1969. Located on the main street of 'Ar'ar near the Municipality Building, the S.R. 100,000 bakery occupies an area of 300 square meters. It is staffed by 10 workers and has two ovens—one for bread and the other for sweets. All equipment is made in either Lebanon or Italy.

It is owned by Anwar Zahra, a 53-year-old Syrian from Damascus who has been living in Saudi Arabia for the past 17 years and who has been residing with his family in 'Ar'ar since 1960. As director of the "Sahara Pharmaceutical Corporation" of 'Ar'ar, Mr. Zahra has also been contracting medical supplies for Tapline for several years.

Prices at the bakery are as follows: 1,125 grams of bread sell for one Saudi Riyal while prices of sweets range from 3 to 9 Saudi Riyals per kilo.

'Ar'ar is one of the thriving modern communities that have developed near Tapline's main pump stations in northern Saudi Arabia. Within three kilometers of Badanah station, it typifies this development in many ways.

It was the first town in the Northern Province to have a privately-capitalized electric power company, a water distribution system, a modern slaughterhouse, an expanding telephone service, a thriving bank branch, a mercury-lit and asphalt-treated two-lane street, well-equipped car repair and machine shops, modern laundry, well-stocked stores, a government-sponsored 25-bed general hospital and Tuberculosis Clinic, a passports office and a new primary boys' school.

A nine-classroom school for girls is also under construction in the northern part of the town.

These interior views of the 'Ar'ar Modern Bakeries were taken by Periscope photographer K. Nasr.