To all employees,

This is the happy season which permits us all to take time out from our daily routines to think back on the year's accomplishments and to wish friends far and near well. The sustained efforts and continued loyalty of each one of you have helped make 1976 a very good year for Pipeline.

Evolving requirements for our company and ways of getting it closer to our roots should make the future for our business even brighter.

May it be all Pipeline employees and their families a joyous Christmas and the start of anything for the coming New Year.

R. W. Turrentine
EDITOR F. C. Najia, REPORTERS: Badanah Miss P. Hayer, Beirut N. Hanna, Amman John Tapliners received service stars for completing 15 or 20 service years during the same month.

The 20-year-pin recipients:

Qaisumah Sulak Sidan Proxy of Community Services
Rafha M. A. Hamid Badawi of Pumphouse Operations

OPERATIONS REPORT

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<td>Turaif</td>
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The 15-year-pin recipients:

Sidon M. T. Alsh of Marine
S. H. Bayouzy of Marine
A. S. Doss of Operations General
A. Y. Doss of Marine
E. M. Faleh of Marine
E. E. El-Joury of Marine
N. M. Ghali of Marine

At the meeting of the Aramco Overseas Company held in Dhahran Nov. 20, R. M. Chamak was elected Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Controller of AOC effective immediately.

Administrative Assistant Jamal Hanna is relieving Jamal Alshod COS Superviser, during the latter’s absence on vacation from Dec. 7 through Jan. 3.

Victor V. Khalid, Senior Engineer-In-Inspection and Cathodic Protection, made a one-day trip to Syria, Dec. 2, to inspect the UCF (unattended cathodic protection) station at Km. 1111.

Program Coordinator George N. Kanibi and Auditor Tamer M. Franji returned to Beirut Dec. 11 from a two-week trip to pump stations in Saudi Arabia where they conducted the Annual Field Audit.

D. M. Fakih of Aramco-Hilton made a brief visit to Beirut Dec. 11.

G. T. O. Martin, Loss Prevention Engineer, of Turaii, is in Beirut on an assignment connected with accident statistics.

Relations Advisor Alfred N. Khader resumed his functions Nov. 30 on completion of a special assignment in Coordinator Employee Development.

Mohammed Shalabi, Saudi Arab Personnel Advisor (Aramco) has just completed a one-month rotational assignment with the Relais Department in Turaii as Employee Relations Advisor (Tapline).

PROGRESS ON NEW MICROWAVE SYSTEM CONTINUES UNABATED

Installation of ambient radio shelters, thermo-electric generators and prepare tanks pertaining to Tapline’s new Microwave communications system have just been completed between Km. 64 and 214. Other phases of the project are progressing at a satisfactory pace.

Meanwhile, the first shipment of microwave and VHF repeaters, manufactured by Loskiet Electronic Company of Canada, arrived in Beirut in mid-December. Installation of the radio and VHF repeaters will start in early January and is slated for completion next summer.

Erection of the 20 towers needed for the new communications network was completed by Christmas while tower grounding, which started in early November, is still underway. Estimating Engineer Board A. Khablan and Corrosion Engineer Nasser Baasiri conducted a measurement of the grounding system of the Microwave towers in Saudi Arabia and Jordan between Dec. 5 and 9. Mr. Baasiri visited tower sites in Salam and Jericho, South Lebanon, for the same purpose on Dec. 14.

Major items needed for the project, such as Crossa towers, transmission lines, thermo-electric generators, shelters, etc. are being shipped from the United States, Canada, Germany and Italy via Beirut port.

Replacing Taylor’s old High Frequency and Very High Frequency communications system, the new Microwave system will improve the quality and allow a wider network of radio communication between the various Tapline work locations in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. It will also permit Tapline to operate in the proper portions of the radio spectrum for multifaceted communications systems as provided by the regulations of the International Telecommunications Union.

The new communications network is slated to be operative by Fall, 1973. Actual field work started last March.

V. BEZDIKIAN Attends Seminar On Microfilming-Duplicating

Senior Draftsman Vartan Bezdikian attended a three-day 3M Microfilming-Duplicating seminar held at the Phoenix Hotel in Beirut November 26-28.

The seminar featured briefings and demonstrations of the different types of 3M microfilming and duplicating machines, including processing cameras, reader printers, projectors and dry scopics. Mr. Vartan’s attendance of the seminar is in line with the company’s study of the possibility of applying the microfilming system for filing engineering charts, maps, records drawings and other company documents which are bulky to store and retain.

As of Jan. 1 company hospitals in Rafha and Qaisumah will be run by doctors and nurses from Badanah and Turaif hospitals, who will be working on six weeks rotational assignments. All expatriate medical personnel will be stationed in and around Badanah stations.

Medical Director Dr. J. D. Thaddeus visited all main stations along the ‘Line in Saudi Arabia in late November to discuss and arrange the rotational program. While on the ‘Line, Dr. Thaddeus also discussed the 1973 medical budget and controls.

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D. R. Fate, Tapline Vice President Operations, and G. F. Larsen, Aramco Vice President General Services, both of Dhahran, visited Tapline facilities in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia between Dec. 6 and 9.

Messrs. Fate and Larsen discussed outstanding items with Tapline officials in Beirut and toured Sidon Terminal facilities on Dec. 7. They lunched at Sidon and were entertained at a company dinner later in the evening at the Phoenicia Hotel. The function was attended by Vice President and Mrs. J. M. Temple, Manager Operations and Mrs. J. L. Koenreich, Terminal Superintendent and Mrs. A. D. Odegaarden, Asst. Treasurer/Asst. Controller and Mrs. S. M. Chamieh, General Manager Engineering and Mrs. F. N. Khabbaz, Chief Dispatcher and Mrs. M. A. Makdissi and Acting Manager of Operations and Mrs. G. N. Ziady.

On the next day the two vice presidents enplaned for Turaif where they were met by General Superintendent R. R. Portmess and Superintendent Maintenance J. J. Makkinje, who accompanied them on their two-day tour of Tapline installations in Arabia. During their 'Line visit, Messrs. Fate and Larsen met with field personnel at all levels and were the guests of honor at a number of functions, including dinner parties hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Portmess of Turaif and Mr. and Mrs. Mohammad Abdul Rahman of Badanah.

(Photos by Khalil Abou El-Nasr)
View of the dinner party hosted in honor of Messrs. Larsen and Fate at the Mohammad Abdul Rahman's in Bukhara.

Unusual heavy rains hit the pipeline area in early autumn this year, much to the pleasure of many Tapliners and townsmen who predict a successful truffle season and lot of greenery along the Line. (Photo by Khalil Abou El—Nasr).

HILLS DELIVERS OPENING ADDRESS AT MEIRC CONFERENCE

Linton Hills, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Aramco, and Fritz Taylor, General Manager Government Relations (Aramco/Tapline), accompanied by Madame Hills and Taylor, visited Beirut between Nov. 27 and 30. Mr. Hills came to Beirut upon an invitation from MEIRC (Middle East Industrial Relations Council) to deliver the keynote address at their 12th Annual Conference held at the Hotel Phoenicia Nov. 28-29 on "Planning for Accelerated Change."

Mr. Taylor's visit to Beirut was to meet with senior personnel of the Medical and Relations Departments.

NEW CHART

A new chart of primary and secondary expense accounts effective 1/1/73 to provide for accountability under the revised Tapline organization chart has been distributed to Accounting Manual holders and all others concerned.
THREE-WHEEL VEHICLE FOR PIPELINE INSPECTION

The concept of using a three-wheel vehicle that can be driven in the open desert for above-ground pipeline inspection is being experimented by the Pipeline Repair Division of the Operations Department.

The vehicle is expected to save time and manpower. Whereas above-ground pipeline inspection was being carried out by two or three pipeline repair crew members who normally walk along the line, one crew member is expected to conduct the same inspection using the new vehicle.

The first experimental vehicle to be used was a 5-hp Montgomery Ward three-wheeler. Operations Department experts say that the concept is potentially advantageous. They will test different types of vehicles and will try modifications on the one on hand.

The camera lens of contract-photographer Khalil Abbas El-Nasr recorded these snapshots of the first inspection jury by the first experimental vehicle in early November.

Caption: Wood and the Pipeline Repair crew inspect an above-ground section of the pipe line near Baghdad using a 5-hp Montgomery Ward three-wheeler vehicle.