Bob Marsh Retires
**Service Stars**

Sixteen Tapliners are due to receive service awards for completing 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 years of service during the month of July. The 26-year pin recipients are:

- Beirut
  - Adel Abou-Said of General Office Services
  - Antoine S. Akel of M.S.T.&T.
  - Muhammad A. Shaghdali of Medical

- Badanah
  - Mukhtar M. Rashidi of Community Services
  - Abdul-Rahman F. Sayyoun of C.E.&I.
  - M. Van Oosten.

- Turaif
  - Fard Y. Najjar of Government Relations (Western Countries)
  - Mohamed M. Rashidi of Community Services
  - Habib N. Saba of Shore Operations
  - Abdul-Rahman F. Sahyoun of C.E.&I.
  - Saad R. Kathiri of Community Maintenance
  - Abdul Aziz Abdul-Rahman Humayd of Pumphouse
  - Muhammad A. Shaghdali of Medical

**Operations Report**

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<td>1974</td>
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**Along the Line**

John J. Makkinje relieved General Superintendent - Saudi Arabia during the latter's absence on vacation ending July 9. Mr. Makkinje interrupted his relief assignment in Turaif, between June 5 and 15, to attend a training course in Canada in connection with the maintenance of Tapline's newly-completed microwave communications system. During the latter period all Line station superintendents, maintenance unit supervisors and central operations staff reported to J.L. Koeneh, Manager of Operations.

Samir A. Kurban, Manager Technical Services, also left for Vancouver early in June to attend a week's training course sponsored by the Lenkurt Electric Company of Canada, relevant to Tapline's newly-completed microwave communications system. Subsequent to the course, Mr. Kurban took a vacation until July 3. He was relieved in Beirut by Victor Y. Khalf, Senior Engineer - Catholic Protection and Inspection. While Mr. Kurban was away, Engineer I Basam Basiri assumed Mr. Khalf's functions in addition to his normal responsibilities.

Medical Director Dr. A. Ghanma made a brief trip to Amman early in June to interview physicians for potential employment with Tapline. Earlier, between May 18 and 22, Dr. Ghanma visited Badanah to instigate organizational changes in the Medical Department.

Good luck to Mooring Master Ian Ross of Sidon Terminal who resigned from Tapline on June 3 following over 15 years of service. Capt. Ross joined Caltex in March 1959 as Mooring Master and was transferred to Tapline in the same capacity four years later.

Welcome aboard to ten new employees who joined Company ranks in May and June. They were:

- Antoine A. Karam, Gate Control Patrolman II, Sidon Terminal.
- Zenaib H. Slim, Staff Nurse, Badanah.
- Moniem S. Al-Thalji, Staff Nurse, Badanah.
- Adel - N. Nammour, Staff Nurse, Badanah.
- Adel M. El-Hassan, Assistant Pharmacist, Badanah.
- Fayad M. Hussein, Electrical and Instrumentation Technician II, Turaif.
- Muhammad Suleiman Farhan, Shift Operator, Qaisumah.
- Salih Abduallah Al-Othair, Community Clerk III, Riatayn.
- Osman M. El-Hassan, Communications Technician III, Badanah.
- William H. Hazou, Machinist III, Turaif.

Awad H. Fabeh, Superintendent Relations - Saudi Arabia, returned to Turaif, June 4, following a week's assignment in Dhahran, Riyadh and Beirut.

During the absence from Turaif (from approximately June 3 through July 23) of J.C. Grinbergen, Supervisor C.E.I., matters pertaining to electricity and instrumentation are being handled by H. Hoekzema, while those relevant to communications are being referred to M. Van Oosten.
Bob Marsh has literally worked himself out of a job...

Tapliners up and down the line assembled en masse to bid a heartfelt farewell to R.E. Marsh, Manager Relations - Saudi Arabia, who retired July 1 following around 20 years of service with Aramco and Tapline.

Throughout the month of June parties were held in his honor in Qaisumah, Rafha, Badanah, Turaif and Beirut. A number of speakers at each of these gatherings paid tribute to 'Bob's' long and devoted service and to the impact and impressions he made upon all at Tapline — precisely those of efficiency, organization and friendliness. A focal point of appraisal in these speeches was the excellent relationships Bob built between the Tapline organization and the Saudi local government Amirs and officials along the line.

Bob's personality and achievements were outlined in the following speech, given by Tapline President D.R. Fate at the company farewell party held in the house of Mohammad Abdul Rahman in Badanah on June 19: (Photos by Khalil Abou El-Nasr)

"I'm not here to tell you the story of Bob Marsh's life and particularly not to recount his many accomplishments as a Tapline employee. I feel, however, that many of you do not know too much about Bob's nine years with Aramco before he joined Tapline in 1955.

"You probably do know that he was the trusted assistant to three of Aramco's brilliant, early chief resident officers in Dhahran — Floyd Ohliger, James MacPherson and Fred Davies. But how many of you knew or remembered that Bob organized Aramco's Current Affairs organization in the early 1950s and was its first head? That outfit exists to this day, and it numbers a couple of pretty successful Beirut publishers among its graduates. I trust most of you have heard something of Faisal Itayim and Makram Alyah.

"And even less well known of Bob's early activities was his single-handed editing for two years in a row of Aramco's Annual Reports of Operations. He did part of one — typically — from a hospital bed.

"Bob Marsh has literally worked himself out of a job. And he did it, according to his fashion, right on schedule. He successively turned over every job in Government Relations on Tapline to an Arab employee — including his own.

"When I used to phrase 'worked himself out of a job,' I did not use the word 'work' lightly. I know of no one in Aramco or in Tapline who has so honestly earned the description of 'hard worker.' I believe it has been possible for Bob to work so hard and for so long only because there are few of us who can compete with him in enjoying our work.

"Bob has always been a happy worker. Sometimes his chuckles
were mixed with momentary irritation, often they were at the frailties of human nature — including his own, more often they were the natural effervescence of a man who got a genuine kick out of his job.

"Bob has another quality which I find admirable. He has the knack of knowing what the boss wants done. I remember hearing someone complain about an action Bob had taken. The complaint was particularly bitter, it seemed, because the man who made it said: 'And the worst part of the matter is that I know that Bill Chandler would agree one hundred percent with what Bob Marsh did!'"

"One simply cannot speak of Bob Marsh without some reference to the warm, special relationship he has developed with His Highness Amir 'Abd Allah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Musa'ad. The Saudi Arab Government has indicated the importance in which it holds Tapline by the choice of the incumbent Amir of the Northern Frontiers. Since 1955 Bob Marsh has been Tapline's link with that important official, and we take particular pride in the excellence of the relationship between these two men."

"Retirement functions for most American employees of Aramco and Tapline are usually final farewells. Since Bob, however, is retiring to his apartment in Beirut, we have every reason to expect to see him frequently. We certainly hope to. And if Bob's famed hospitality continues, some of us should be fortunate enough to be invited to his place, where we'll hope to see this token of our esteem among his souvenirs of many years with us at Aramco and Tapline."
Bob Marsh was born in Forest Hills, N.Y., on June 6, 1914. He attended public school and high school there and in 1931, following the death of his father, went to work. While working he attended night classes at New York University, specializing in credits and collections, financial statement analysis and marketing. Altogether, he spent 10 years (from 1931 to 1941) acting as clerk, secretary, and credit man for three commercial firms in New York City. In 1942 he was drafted into the U.S. Infantry. As a non-commissioned officer he subsequently served on the headquarters staffs of General Leslie MacNair, Army Ground Forces, Washington, D.C. and of General Douglas MacArthur in Manila and then Tokyo, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal at the end of his army service in the spring of 1946.

Returning to the U.S. to work for a wheat flour brokerage firm in Bowling Green, New York, Marsh found life in the city dull compared to his relations work in the Adjutant General’s office in Tokyo, so he decided to look for similar employment opportunities abroad. He was about to sign up with a Philadelphia oil concern for a posting in South America when he met an Aramco representative, Garry Owen, who suggested that he join the company which although not a profitable concern at the time, held prospects for a successful future.

Marsh joined Aramco on August 6, 1946, as a Clerk/Stenographer for the Jeddah Office. During that summer the new aircraft, the Constellation, was undergoing severe ground testing, so while awaiting departure for Saudi Arabia Marsh was asked to join Garry Owen in Washington, D.C. where the then Finance Minister of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdullah Sulaiman, and a party of 14 were the guests of the U.S. Government and later of Aramco and TWA. What was to have been an assignment of ten days lasted through October 1946 and terminated with Marsh escorting the Saudi group back to Jeddah, via Amsterdam and Cairo.

Bob Marsh spent many happy years with Aramco. From 1946 to 1965, he assumed various staff functions in the offices of the Chairman of the Board of Directors and of the Chief Executive Officer (the Jeddah assignment having lasted for only two weeks before his transfer to Dhahran). Marsh also acted as a current affairs research analyst, edited Aramco’s annual report for the years 1962 and 1963, and represented the company in Jeddah. In February of 1965, Marsh was assigned to Tapline as Senior Representative, Northern Area, based in Badanah — initially a three month vacation relief assignment which led to his 19-year employment with the company.

In 1963, Marsh was named Manager - Government Relations, after several years as The Company Representative - Pipe Line Area, and in 1968 he became Manager Relations - Saudi Arabia, a position which entailed employee and government relations functions, employee development and training and community development.
Intermittently, between 1959 and 1962, Marsh was assigned to the New York and Washington offices as Assistant to the Vice-President where he represented the Company to the U.S. Government, to diplomatic missions, to various cultural and learned societies and industry.

Another interesting project for Marsh was the study of Arabic. Having been awarded the Aramco $50 certificate in 1947 he was initially given a year's leave from Dhahran (1951–1952) and spent his first semester at the School of Oriental Studies, American University of Cairo, while his second was passed at Aleppo College, where in his spare time he lectured in various business subjects to the senior class. Following field work in Agula, outside Aleppo, in Samen, east of the Euphrates River and in Latakia on the Mediterranean Sea, Marsh returned to Cairo where he was awarded a full-year's credit in the subjects he had studied.

Marsh was again associated with Aramco in 1965–1966 when he acted as Director of Management Development, and again in 1972 in the same capacity, following his transfer to Dhahran from Beirut office.

Marsh intends to retain his home in Beirut, where he hopes to serve U.S. industry in a useful capacity. He is a member of The Union League Club of New York City; The Royal Central Asian Society, London; The Middle East Institute, Washington D.C. (where he was a member of the Board of Governors from 1961 to 1962); and the Propeller Club (USA), Beirut.

Robert E. Marsh
The retirement of R.E. Marsh, Manager Relations—Saudi Arabia, initiated a chain of promotions in the Relations Department with Muhammad H. Sayer taking over Mr. Marsh’s position (resident in Dhahran) and Awad H. Faleh designated as Superintendent—Relations Government Relations Coordinator respectively (both stationed in Turaif).

The new Relations troika assumed responsibility for their new positions effective June 1, when Mr. Marsh was placed on a one-month special assignment prior to his retirement.

The new relations troika

MUHAMMAD H. SAYER

Muhammad Hathlul Sayer was born in 1937 near Hayil, Saudi Arabia. In his early years he attended an-Nassr School in Zerka, Jordan, and subsequently the Bishop’s School, Amman, where he completed the third secondary level in 1957. Later that same year he obtained certificates in Arabic and English typing at the al-Najah Institute. Sayer’s father served with distinction for many years in the Jordan Arab Legion from which he retired in 1967. Since then he has been the Umdah for the Saudi community in Zerka, Jordan. Sayer, who married in 1962, has one daughter and three sons.

On February 24, 1958, Sayer approached the Badanah Relations Office, seeking a job with Tapline. After interviews with Jack White and Bob Marsh he was hired without further ado. Starting as a Clerk Typist (Job Progress Step 9) he made steady progress over the years, working up through the Administrative Aide spot in the office of The Company Representative—Pipe Line Area, Badanah. By 1962 he had reached the position of Local Company Representative—Rafha, which was later to become a permanent assignment both in Rafha and Badanah. In 1971 Sayer assumed the duties of Staff Analyst and Senior Deputy Company Representative, Badanah, and in 1972 those of Superintendent Relations—Turai.

During Sayer’s career with Tapline he has had several out-of-kingdom training and business assignments. In 1963 he attended the American University of Beirut as a special student studying advanced English and Arabic, at the same time working ex-classroom hours under the supervision of the translation specialist in D. S. Dodge’s office. In May 1974, Sayer completed a year’s program during which he worked in the capacity of Manager Relations—Saudi Arabia, as vacation relief for Bob Marsh, entering the John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C., in September 1973 and finally, completing a three-month course in Management at the University of Pittsburgh, May 10, 1974.

AWAD H. FALEH

Awad Hamad Faleh, the newly appointed Superintendent Relations—Saudi Arabia, was born in Sakaka, Saudi Arabia, on September 17, 1938. Three years later, his mother passed away and he helped his father on the family property, at the same time continuing his elementary education in the only public school in Sakaka. He joined Aramco on November 8, 1954, serving in all units of what was then called the Identification Division, Abqaiq. Faleh enrolled in Aramco’s Industrial Training Center in Abqaiq and took courses throughout his company service. He learned English, Arabic and typing. He transferred to Tapline Government Relations on September 1, 1969, holding the positions of Typist...
Alfred S. Khader

Clerk, Assistant Local Company Representative, Administrative Aide, Local Company Representative, Government Relations Coordinator and the position he now holds of Superintendent Relations. In 1964 Awad was sent by the company to the American University of Beirut to take special courses in English and Arabic. He was the second employee to receive Tapline's Silver Certificate and the third to receive the Gold Certificate, awarded by the company at that time to mark progress in proficiency in the English language.

Awad's father died in the early sixties and Awad became the official guardian of his only two brothers, Fahad and Sa'ad who are now completing their high school education in 'Ar'ar.

After nearly six years of service to the Jordanian Government, Al Khader returned to AUE for graduate studies in Development Administration, receiving an M.A. in 1971. Prior to returning to Tapline, he again worked for the Jordanian Government for about one year. Al Khader assumed the position of Local Company Representative in April 1972 and has held this position until his promotion to the Government Relations Coordinator job on June 1, 1974.

Alfred, one of six brothers and sisters, is married and is a father of two boys, Fadi and Shadi. His father and mother are still residing in Jerusalem.

Construction boom in and around Qaisumah

Construction of an elementary-secondary school by the Saudi Arab Government in Hafel-Batin, an important trade center near Qaisumah, has entered the final stages. The school is due for completion by the end of summer, to admit students for the 1974-75 school year. (Photo by Khalil Abou El-Nasr).

The secondary school for girls, currently under construction in Qaisumah, opened, and reportedly 71 percent complete at the end of May. Said for completion by the end of August, the school will bring to four the number of girls'schools built by Tapline in the four main station towns and subsequently turned over to the Saudi government in accordance with a previous agreement. Four boys schools have already been turned over. The new school features six classrooms, a basketball court, an outdoor stage and playgrounds. (Photo by Khalil Abou El-Nasr).

Construction of an important roadway which will link Tapline's main road near Qaisumah with Kuwait, was reported 70 percent complete at the end of May. The road will skirt the city of Hafel-Batin, an important trade center near the 'Line in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, linking it with Al-Rugi', a border town on the northern Saudi frontiers with Kuwait. (Photo by Khalil Abou El-Nasr).
Travellers to Badanah or any other station along the ‘Line are no doubt impressed by the tall eucalyptus, cypress, pine or other varieties of evergreen trees, dwarfing station houses and facilities. These trees, which have transformed the stations into large oases in the midst of the vast Saudi Arabian desert are of special significance, for they are as old as Tap-line itself.

Thanks must go to both the planning and green thumbs of Tap-line forerunners who spared no effort in nurturing their desert gardens, plus present station dwellers who are maintaining the tradition.

The camera lens of photographer Khalil Alou El-Nasr recorded the accompanying views of the greenery at Badanah station typical of the blossoming surroundings at other Tapline main pump stations in Saudi Arabia.
Ahlan wa sahlan

Ahlan wa Sahlan to two new faces in Beirut office — Miss Rita V. Khattar on loan from AOC as secretary to Tapline's Compensation, Benefits and Labor Relations Division of the Administration Department, and Elias F. Copty who was recently transferred from Turail as Employee Relations Processor.

* Rita is the daughter of Administrative Supervisor—Medical, Victor E. Khattar, a veteran Tapliner whose service with the company dates back to July 1951. Rita graduated from the Beirut University College in 1969 as an Associate in Applied Sciences, a two-year program in general education, business management, accounting and secretarial training. She was the only student in her class to graduate with distinction.

Prior to joining AOC, Rita worked for one year as secretary with Squibb (Middle East) and four years with the American International Underwriters (Mediterranean) as executive secretary. She lists swimming and stamp collecting among her hobbies.

* Elias joined Tapline as Clerk—Typist in Turail's Central Machine Shop on March 15, 1965. He was promoted to Technician—Mechanical Services a few years later, a position which required him to attend a number of company-sponsored training programs in crude lube oil, and water testing, defensive driving, and vibration testing. He obtained his high school certificate in 1962 from the College of the Good Shepherd in Beirut, and later undertook courses in bookkeeping, accounting, shorthand. Since 1972, Elias has been pursuing a correspondence program in Radio and Television Maintenance Engineering with the International Correspondence School (ICS), London, from where he obtained his English language proficiency two years earlier. Elias lists tennis, swimming and bridge among his hobbies. He is married and has one son, Fawzi.

Saudi government—Aramco agreement

The recent agreement between the Saudi Arab government and Aramco, increasing the government's interest from 25 to 60 percent, was announced in the following release issued by Aramco's Board of Directors in Dhahran on June 15:

"As you are all aware Saudi officials have talked in recent months of finding a new unique arrangement for Aramco, more suited to the circumstances prevailing in Saudi Arabia. The primary purpose and intention of the Saudi Government in seeking such an arrangement is to reach a settlement that is lasting and stable despite continued turmoil in the world energy scene and at the same time to preserve Aramco as the company which will continue to develop the country's oil resources. As an interim step, Aramco, its shareholders and the Saudi Arab government have concluded an agreement to increase the government's participation interest in Aramco from 25 to 60 percent which represents the latest stage in the evolution of the relationship between Aramco and the government.

"Everything Saudi government officials have said to us indicates a sincere intent to make no disruptive changes in Aramco operations. The government understands and appreciates that Aramco's ability to carry out its role in producing and delivering Saudi oil is dependent upon the skills and abilities of its work force. I am confident therefore that changes in the level of Saudi Arab government participation in Aramco will not adversely affect the company's policies nor its normal management process.

"Discussions with the government on arrangements for its participation are continuing and we expect that other announcements and news reports on this subject will appear from time to time. However, these developments will be worked out through future negotiations."

Signed: F. Jungers,
Chairman of the Board of Directors
and Chief Executive Officer
Most of Badanah station’s children, together with their parents, attended the recent birthday party given by Dr. and Mrs. Philip Sunna for their daughter Nancy (center) who was two years in May. (Photo by Khalil Abou El-Nasr).

Shilla Moutlaq, daughter of Othayeb Moutlaq of Qaisumah, is delighted by her unusual pet, a goat, which she calls "Salma." Now five months old, Salma has already drunk milk to the worth of 184 Saudi Riyals and is surprisingly tame and obedient. Salma enjoys being with children and even sees them off when they go to school. (Photo by Khalil Abou El-Nasr).

The home of Hmood Nazzal, Station Superintendent – Qaisumah, has acquired the appropriate name of "community house," as it is the usual for most parties held by Qaisumah Tapiquir. A group of Qaisumah employees (labeled above) enjoy a steak dinner hosted by Staff Nurse Said M. Baram (right), celebrating the occasion of his recent transfer from Turaif to Qaisumah. (Photo by Khalil Abou El-Nasr).
Tapliners bid farewell to Dr. Maurice Baroody

Best wishes to Dr. Maurice Baroody, Supervising Physician, Badanah Hospital, who resigned from Tapline on June 17, following around 15 years of service, to continue his specialization in Anesthesia at AUB's Medical Center. He was replaced on a temporary basis by Dr. Shukri M. Soulban.

Prior to his departure, Dr. Baroody was feted at two company functions: a dinner party held in Badanah's Movie Hall on June 15 which gathered station families and management and during which Medical Director Dr. A. Ghanma, Michel Moussa, Moussa Moussa and Abdul Hadi Rayya paid tribute to Dr. Baroody's service; and a luncheon party held on June 28 at Beirut's Bristol Hotel during which Dr. Ghanma presented his colleague with a 15-year service award and certificate. Earlier in the month Dr. Baroody made a farewell tour at company stations in Saudi Arabia and was guest of honor at a number of "goodbye" functions.

Dr. Soulban joined Tapline on February 23, 1962 as Physician in Qaisumah and became Supervising Physician Turaif a couple of years later. From September 1971 until his recent appointment as Supervising Physician - Badanah Hospital (Acting) he was in charge of Badanah clinics.

Dr. and Mrs. Soulban reside in Badanah and have two children, Graciella, 12, and Lucien, 8.
Abdallah Ali Al-Ghamdi, Supervisor Community Services-Badanah, leaves for the United States in July on an 11-month educational leave to study English and the culinary arts.

He will attend a two-month English language course at the ELS Language Center in Washington, followed by a nine-month program with the Culinary Institute of America, which offers courses in the techniques of food preparation.

Abdallah began his employment with Tapline on March 31, 1964 as Shift Operator and subsequently held the positions of Radio Operator, Clerk Typist, Arabic Language Teacher, Craftsman II, and Club Steward, among others. His latest promotion to the position of Supervisory Community Services-Badanah was made effective on April 1, 1972.

Mr. and Mrs. Al-Ghamdi live in a S.H.O.P. (Saudi Homestead Ownership Plan) house in 'Ar'ar and are the proud parents of four children.

Ed Wright retires

"I've enjoyed working with all Tapliners and will sure miss my job and my friends," said Ed J. Wright, former Superintendent-Badanah, before leaving for Taylor, Texas, in mid-July following his retirement.

Mr. Wright was placed on a six-month special assignment before his retirement became effective on June 30. He was succeeded by Ahmad Shmassy.

Mr. Wright's service with Tapline and affiliated companies dates from December 23, 1947, when he joined Humble Oil Company (now Exxon) as Engineer II. He was transferred to Tapline on July 19, 1952 as Shift Foreman at Qaisumah. Mr. Wright occupied positions of increasing responsibility in the company’s various pump stations in Saudi Arabia including those of Assistant Operating Foreman, Operations Foreman and General Service Foreman.

Prior to his departure from the “Line, Mr. Wright was entertained at a series of farewell dinners in Badanah and Turaf hosted by the Ahmad Shmassys, C. Soulban, Muhammad Abdel Rahmans and E.C. Ollens. To pay him tribute Mr. Wright's friends and colleagues presented him with a gold watch and a brass tray embossed with the Tapline map.

Mr. Wright’s future plans include work on his farm in Taylor, Texas. His temporary address will be:

E.J. Wright
1505 Glemorose
Taylor, Texas