

Published by the
 Rotary Club of Beaumont USPS 471-700
 Subscription price \$5.00 per year
 Periodicals postage paid at Beaumont, Texas
 Published weekly except when Wednesday
 falls on a holiday.
 POSTMASTER: send address changes to
 Beaumont Hilton, Suite 213
 2355 IH-10 South
 Beaumont, TX 77705



Periodical
 POSTAGE
 Paid at
 Beaumont, TX



The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



Photo by Steve Buser

A Publication of the Rotary Club of Beaumont, Texas - Club #72

Vol. 92 No. 47 June 11, 2003

R.B. "Ralph" Marquez, Commissioner, TNRCC



Ralph Marquez of Texas City was appointed by Governor George W. Bush to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) on May 1, 1995, and was confirmed by the Texas Senate on May 5, 1995. His first term expired August 31, 1999, and he was reappointed for a second term that expires August 31, 2005. The Texas Senate confirmed his second appointment on Feb. 21, 2001.

Prior to his appointment, he served on several TNRCC advisory committees and task forces. He is a registered professional engineer and has been a vice-chair of the Texas Chemical Council en-

vironmental committee, a board member of the Gulf Coast Water Authority, and served on the State of Texas Waste Reduction Advisory Committee. He also served as chairman of the City of Texas City Environmental Advisory Board.

From 1963 to 1993, he worked for the Monsanto Company in various capacities, including internal company consultant for technical, regulatory and legislative environmental issues. He earned a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas and a master's degree in Future Studies from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

(Continued on page 3)

Head Table



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 FINANCIAL PROFESSIONAL,
 THE MONY GROUP



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RODNEY MARTIN,
 PRESIDENT/CEO,
 BEAUMONT YMCA



4-WAY TEST
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GUEST INTRODUCTION
TERRY BOURDIER,
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Future Programs

June
18th Representative Allan Ritter
25th UT Chancellor Mark Yudof
July
2nd Installation of Officers & Board
9th Beaumont Main Street

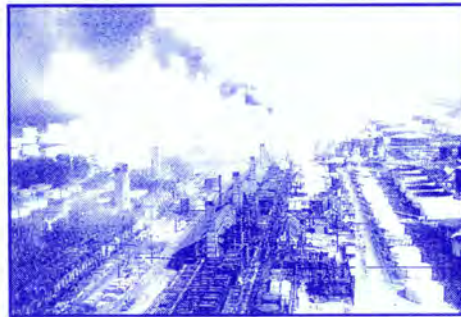
Makeups

Monday:
No. Port ArthurHoliday Inn Hwy 69
Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank
Tuesday:
Spindletop.....Holiday Inn 11th St.
Orange.....Sunset Grove
Port Neches.....Pompano Club
Wednesday:
Groves.....Pompano Club
Thursday:
Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69
Friday:
Nederland.....Garden Tea Room

Program Review

Russ Schultz, Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication at Lamar University, and **Kathleen Jackson**, Public Affairs Manager at Exxon-Mobil Corporation provided an overview of their collaborative effort to chronicle the centennial of the oil giant's impact on the community and world.

Soon after the Lucas Gusher made history on January 10, 1901 and changed Beaumont forever, the need for refineries in the area became clear. Standard Oil Company rose to the occasion and 89 acres of land were purchased for \$45,000 near the Neches River.



Magnolia Refinery in the 1920s

When the refinery was completed in 1902 it was sold to Security Oil Company and in 1909 the company was reorganized as the Magnolia Petroleum Company. In 1959, the plant site became a property of Mobil Oil Company and then ExxonMobil in the late 1990s when the world's two oil leaders merged.

Kathleen explained that although much of the plant's landscape has changed since the early days, the process for distilling crude oil has remained the same. She explained that a visit to the Texas Energy Museum visually demonstrates how that technology has worked basically unchanged for over 100 years.

In their quest to retell the story of the refinery and its impact on Southeast

Texas, Kathleen stated, "What makes the difference is the people." Of particular note was the creation of KFDM Radio in 1924 as the company's own radio station that broadcasted from its cafeteria. The call letters, KFDM, stood for "Kall for Dependable Magnolene." Today, the television station that still bears the call letters is fondly referred to as Channel 6.

Throughout its long history, the plant has not only provided jobs and a significant impact on the local economy but also has formed partnerships with the Port of Beaumont, the Lower Neches River Authority, and Lamar University, to name a few, to foster supportive collaborations to enhance and make the community a better place in which to live. Thus a partnership with Lamar University's Communication Department seemed natural to visually record special stories of the people who have worked at the plant and touched the community through their efforts.

Kathleen stated that the creators of the video hope to uncover stories about the impact women made during the war years, the sale of war bonds and to interview many of the "old timers" who could retell interesting stories about the plant.

The video is scheduled to be completed in September and will be approximately 30 to 40 minutes long according to O'Brian Stanley, Professor of Communication at Lamar who presented a 7 minute preview. Student assistants on the project who were introduced at the meeting included Cindy Green and Judy Taylor.

Kathleen touched on things to come at the plant site that include an \$80 million Wet Gas Scrubber that will make air emissions cleaner "with a plume of water vapor that will change Beaumont's horizon."

(Continued on page 3)

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Board Action

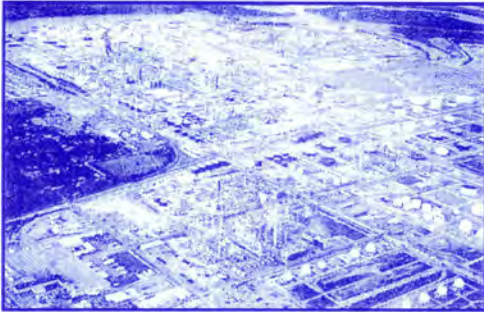
Your Board of Directors met Tuesday, May 27th, and accepted the following resignations with regret:

John Durkay - business pressure
Dan Phares - business pressure

Review continued

(Continued from page 2)

Anticipated approval by the ExxonMobil board in mid June will provide for the construction of new cogeneration facility that will supply 650 megawatts of energy for the plant. An additional 300 megawatts (enough to supply electricity to every home in Beaumont) will be "put out on the grid" at competitive prices for purchase by energy suppliers. Kathleen also stated that there is an expected expansion to the facility's blending and packaging plant and improvements in manufacturing low-sulfur gasoline.



ExxonMobil Beaumont Complex today

In his ending remarks, **Jim Rich**, Interim President, noted that ExxonMobil pays more school taxes to the Beaumont Independent School District than the State of Texas does, and the plant accounts for 15 percent of the Beaumont economy.

At the conclusion of the meeting, everyone wanted to know when **Steve Buser**, president of the Partnership of Southeast Texas, had changed his first name to "Rudy" as was footnoted under his image in the video. Okay Steve, fess up!

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Birthdays

11th Jim Rich (97)

President,
Beaumont Chamber of Commerce



Born in Windber, Pennsylvania, he is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Kent State University and the University of Southern California. He

and his wife Kathy are the parents of Jennifer and Alison, and are members of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. He enjoys playing golf, yard work and reading.

12th Paula Bothe (89)

President,
Four Alarm Productions



Born in Newark, Arkansas, she is a graduate of Baylor University. She and her husband Hoyt are the parents of Hunter, and are

members of Calder Baptist Church. She enjoys theater, baseball, reading and gardening. Paula is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Editor's Notes

It was good to see **Michael Wolf** looking so well at last week's meeting. He is recovering from a heart attack that left him in CCU for four days last month.

This Week's Program

(Continued from page 1)

Since joining the commission, he has served on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee and the Governmental Advisory Committee to the U.S. Representative to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. He also has served as chair of the Environmental Council of States Regulatory Reinvention Work Group. He has been heavily involved in air, Mexico border, and regulatory innovation issues during his terms on the commission.

14th Rhonda Perkins (02)

Director of Community Development,
Beaumont Main Street



Born in New Boston, she and her husband Ed are the parents of Eric. She enjoys playing golf, reading and the beach.

14th Vic Zaloom (99)

Chairman, Industrial Engineering,
Lamar University



Born in Paterson, New Jersey, he is a graduate of the University of Florida and the University of Houston.

He and his wife Patricia are the parents of Shar, John, Anna and Mike, and are members of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. He enjoys spending time with his family and playing tennis and softball.

15th Jim Tarbett (80)

President,
JAT Engineering



Born in Takoma Park, Maryland, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Frances are the parents of Patrice, Shannon and Terri, and

are members of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. He enjoys hunting, playing tennis, golf and softball and all water sports. Jim is a Paul Harris Fellow.

17th Doug Nelson (96)

General Manager,
Transit Mix Concrete & Materials



A Beaumont native, he attended Lamar University. He and his wife Camille are the parents of April, Ashley and Angela, and are members of Westgate

Church of Christ. He enjoys playing golf, fishing, hunting and scuba diving.

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