

The People of the Deer Park Research Lab

Wade Callender

This is an archiving of the many pictures of the people who worked and played at the Shell Deer Park Research Lab. It covers about 30 years with many individuals and pictures. Many people have contributed pictures and stories for this archiving. The incentive to assemble this started with a series of pictures that Bob Johnston gave us, when they were clearing out the files of the Shell Historical Museum. From other individuals, such as Clovis Davis, Bob Olson, Tony Gatti, Delma Walters and Gary Welch, photos of the Deer Park people have been obtained. The biggest problem with the pictures has been identifying the individuals and the time when the pictures were obtained. I have had many people helping with this project: Lee Scott, Glen McCullough, Larry Maas, Burt Arnold, Clovis and Lois Davis, Charlie T. Adams, Mac Nager, Henry Kretzschmar, Janine and Roy Levitch, Bruce Winquist, Paul Conn, Tony Gatti, Stan Brandenberger. My thanks to all of them for their patience and help in sorting out individuals and dates. We haven't been able to identify all the individuals. And it is quite possible we have misidentified some of the people. I have tried to keep the writing to a minimum.



Early Deer Park Lab, 1946

The Deer Park Research Lab was opened sometime in the 1930's. The refinery itself first had oil flow in 1929. The earliest picture we have of the lab is in 1946. At that time they were just adding the south wing to the old lab. Clovis Davis is the only one I know who saw the lab as in this picture. They were just completing the south wing when he hired in. Harold Kemmerer was director at the time but shortly thereafter Cliff Hogge became director. He was replaced

by Bill Bailey in 1952. Bill, more than any other person, set the tone for the lab and was really instrumental in establishing a fantastic esprit de corps. He encouraged a strong friendly relation with the staff by encouraging and actively participating in many social functions. Most of the pictures you see here are related to these social events. On the next page is a picture of our leader, Bill, and wife Carma at one of the many dances we had.



Christmas party, ca '63 Bill and Carma Bailey
Butch Riggs and Clovis Davis

This is the first picture we had of Bill and Carma at a dance; it was taken in about 1963. The earliest Christmas party I remember was in 1952. In the early years Kerry and Alice Arabian were some of the most active people in actually organizing the events. In 1952 though we had Lois Davis, Melba Limbach and John Wallin doing the organizing. Sparing no expense they brought in an outstanding corps de ballet for entertainment at the Christmas dance. After extensive rehearsals, with Lois Davis at the piano and Melba directing, a precision group performed the Can Can. It was obviously a well-trained group as one can see from the picture that everyone was in step. The odds were against the photographer of ever catching the group in step again.



Bob Dicks Wade Callender Christmas '52 Jack Limbach Jack O'Neal Bob Casagrande Chuck Reed



Christmas party '52
Fran Stanberry, Jeep Sartor Leela Sartor

as pointed out by Roy Levitch!

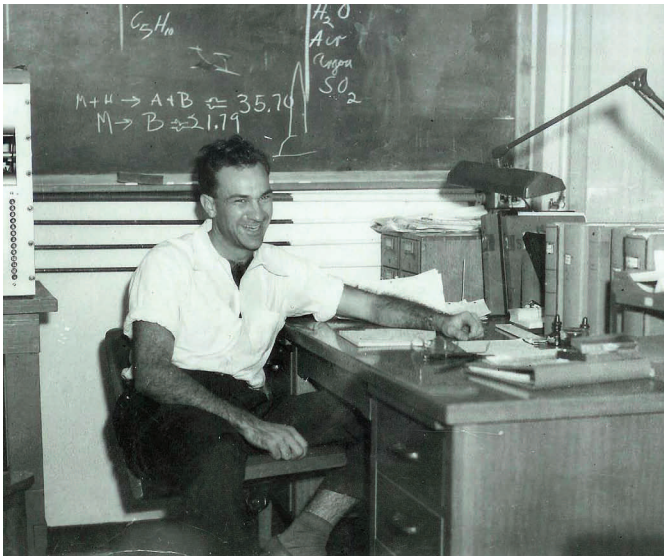
Here are several people who attended this soirée. If you look carefully, you will see many bottles of mixes and Jeep holding a bottle of bourbon or scotch. Yes, indeed those were the days of brown bagging in Houston. This table had some class though, bringing their liquor in a classy leather bag (on the right) instead of brown bagging it. I've forgotten when we finally got rid of the brown bag days. I think it was in about 1958. And I thought wrong! The law wasn't repealed until 1972



'57 or later

Larry Maas, Paul Peurifoy, Steve Slaymaker, Ray Coffey

Not sure exactly where this picture was taken. We had originally thought it was taken in 1952 but Stan Brandenberger pointed out that Steve didn't arrive until '57 or later. But it is a strange picture. 4 or 5 guys standing around looking at Ray Coffey working. Not the normal situation!



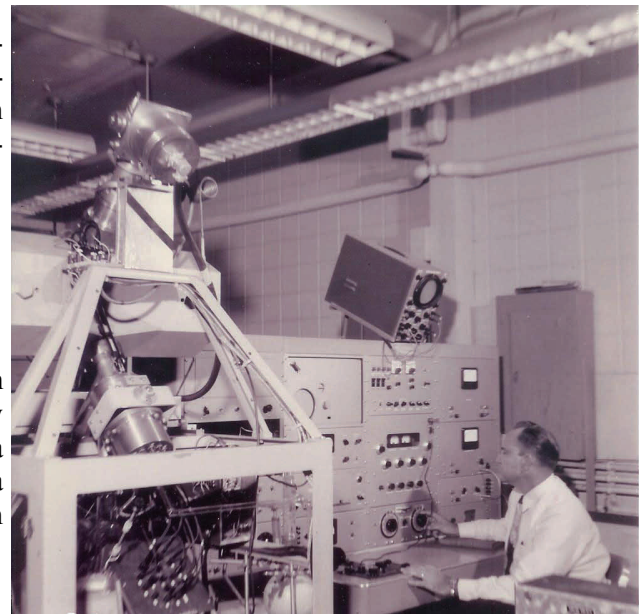
Jack O'Neal, before 1950

Here we have several mass spectrometer workers, including the one who started it all, Jack O'Neal.



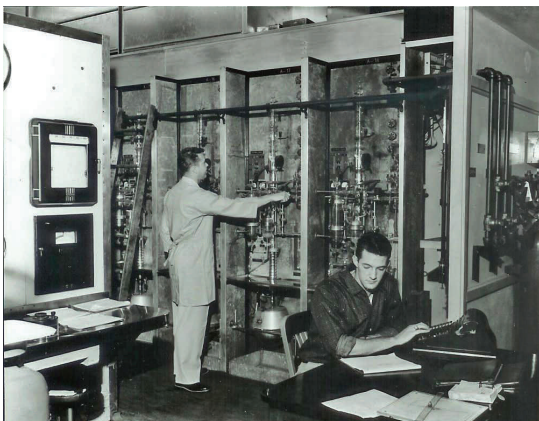
ca 1948 Ann Risinger

In looking at some of these early pictures, I forgot just how big some of the mass spec equipment was in those days. In this picture with Gus, he is overshadowed by the size of equipment surrounding him



ca 1950 Gus Carlson

Clovis and I wondered about this column room picture quite a bit but Clovis contacted Jimmy Martin there in Granbury and he claims this is a very young Jimmy Martin. I think this is a problem we've had; we all looked so damn young 50 years ago.



Jimmy Martin 1950-1952

By 1956 we were really crowded in the old lab and Bill Bailey had pulled the strings to get us a new and larger one. The picture on the next page shows some of the lab personnel in attendance at the groundbreaking.



**New Lab Groundbreaking, ca 1956 Harry Walker, Bill Bailey, Put Hinds
Stan Marple, Isaac Dvoretzky, Rudy Motard, Dick Hunt, Dick Bannerot, Jack O'Neal,
Roy Thompson, Bill Biles, Ben Post, Jeep Sartor, Ray Wilson, Doc Baker, Bill Meerbott**



**Shish Kebab Picnic, ca 1957 Serving line
Wally Anastasoff, Kerry Arabian, John Jenkins, Florian Demny, Bob Ingram, Russ Holocek**



**Shish Kebab Picnic, '57
Kerry Arabian, Wally Anastasoff**

The serving line on the preceding page was the start of our shish kebab picnic in 1957. Well, perhaps not the start. Our chefs, Kerry Arabian and Wally Anastasoff, were first very active in preparing and grilling the shish kebab. The picnic was held at "Shellwood", a family picnic facility that Shell had on 518, about 3 miles west of I45.



**Bill Dierker
Bill Grisham** **Shish Kebab Picnic, '57
Don Hardesty, Herb Benson** **Steve Slaymaker**



The Gillums were enjoying lunch with the Baileys and the Bannerots (Dick is barely visible on the right). Ray Clerc is peering around in the back.

Shish Kebab Picnic, '57

**Doris & Kent Gillum, Bill & Carma Bailey (with son)
Doris Bannerot, Ray Clerc**



Shish Kebab Picnic, '57
**Frank Lyons
Len Gallik, Hank Anderson**



Shish Kebab Picnic, '57
Dick Hunt taking care of kids

While Hank and Len were enjoying the beer line, Dick was trying to handle all the kids. There were numerous pictures taken of the kids on the merry-go-round but this one had the most. There was also a swimming pool and there was a lot of horse play in the pool.



And we had a ball game to go with the picnic. Burt Arnold streaks down the baseline to beat the throw to Ray Lopez at first base. Burt tells me he did beat the throw.

The stellar players who participated in this game were captured in this remarkable picture. Almost all the people were facing the camera but identification of the two women has been a problem.

Shish Kebab picnic, '57
Burt Arnold **Ray Lopez**



Shish Kebab Picnic, '57
Bob Griffith, Dick Longman, Mac Nager, ?,?, John Gwyn
Florian Demny, Dick Stewart, Burt Arnold, ?, Bud Geiger, Ray Lopez,
Wade Callender, John Jenkins, Ed Roque

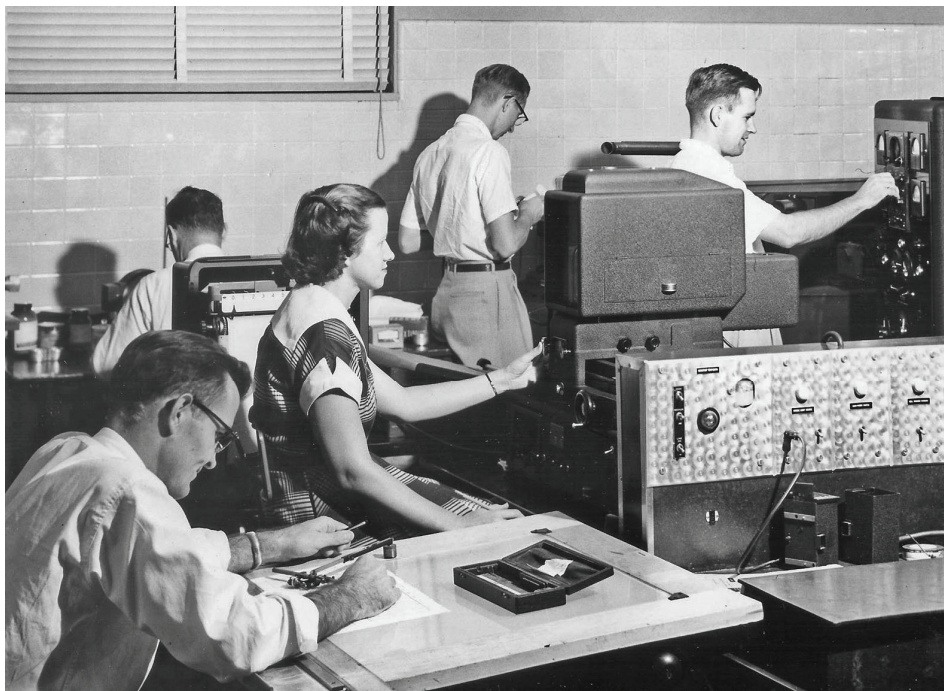


In 1958 many of the Deer Parkers were in the new lab. Actually it opened in 1957, although some say they were in the new building in late 1956. The new building housed on the right a large meeting room and the library was on the second floor. The top floor on the left was devoted entirely to offices and the bottom floor was mostly computing and mass spectrometry.

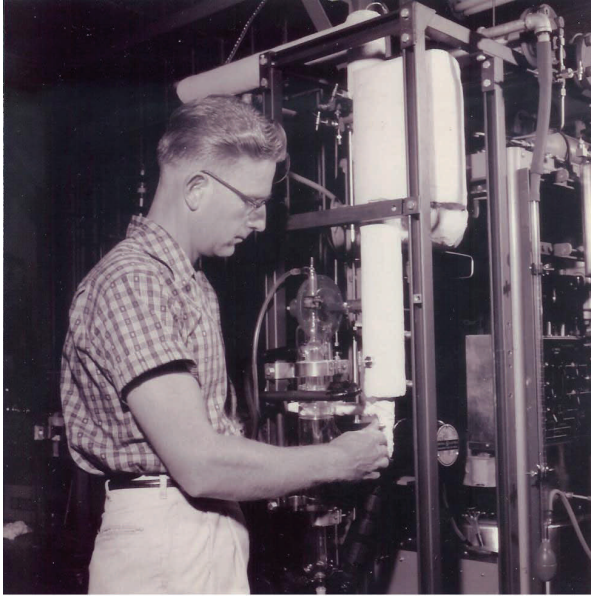
Bill Bailey also had the old labs and offices in the old building upgraded. His goal was to make the facilities as nice as the new building for those of us who remained behind. We

certainly gained a lot more room, which was really needed.

We think the picture below was taken in about 1957. It was taken in the old lab after many had moved into the new building.

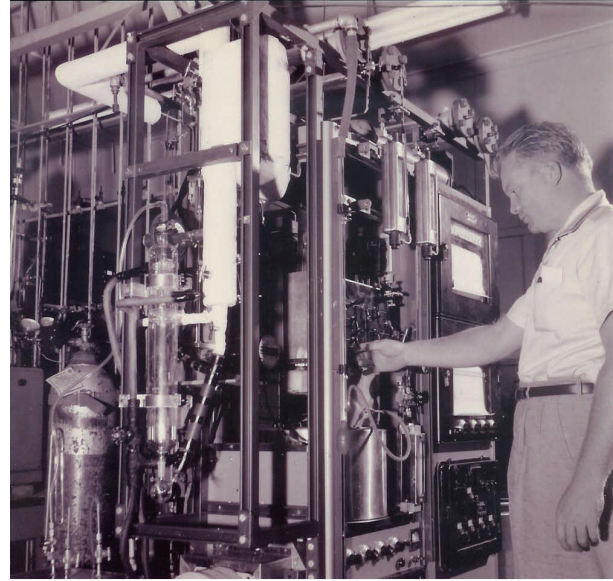


Deer Park Lab, 57
Mac Simmons, Joe Murphy,?, Bob Olson, ?



1958

Harold Cox



1958

Wade Callender

I included the one of me just to convince myself and **other skeptics** that I was indeed once thin and had hair.



Burt Arnold, ?, Johnny and Helen Muires, Larry Maas, Florian Demny
Christmas Party '58



Christmas party .58
E.O. and Leah Kindchy

These are two pictures from the 1958 Christmas dance and yes indeed, we were that young.



Christmas Party '58

Ken and Mandy Train, Glen McCullough, ?, Bill Meerbott, Wally Anastasoff

Another 1958 Christmas dance picture. We haven't really identified the woman holding on to Glen and he suggested the following caption for her " Glenn's date for the evening who he refuses to identify". It was a little difficult to put the caption under the picture so I put it here.

This picture suggests that there was some work going on at Deer Park, but it is so contrived, it must be considered only a photo op.



Deer Park Meeting, ca 1957

Bill Dubois

Ken Train, Wally Anastasoff

Stan Marple John Gwyn

In 1962 many of us had the “opportunity” to run plants in the refinery. The union went on strike and over half the lab was out running plants. The first month was interesting but after that, in a word ”BORING”. Unfortunately it lasted 353 days. Clovis tells me there was a secret plan for people to enter the refinery site if union strikers blocked the entrance. The plan, call the “Rum Runners”, was for people to meet at Clovis’ and they would be transported to the north side of the ship channel and

go by boat to the back side of the Shell refinery. Put Hinds was put in charge of the operation; he would have loved the intrigue. One morning Clovis had 10 people on his doorstep but, fortunately, the union strikers abandoned their strong stand and the threat dissipated.



This picture was taken in the period of ‘63- ‘65 as was the one below. They could well have been taken at the same Christmas dance. Certainly the picture with the Adams and Nagers was taken at the same dance as the ones on the following page. The background window in the bottom picture on this page is the same as in one of the pictures on the next page.

**Christmas Dance, ca ‘64
Paul & Georgia Peurifoy, Barbara Paulissen, Allan Riggs, Joe Murphy**



**Christmas party , ca 64
Charlie T. Adams, Sylvia Jenkins, Doris Adams, Mac and Ruth Nager**



We have had a tough time identifying people in these two pictures. Lee Scott tells me Bob Montgomery had arranged for the instructors to teach the group a new dance. I'm not sure just what the dance was but Lee thought it was the "Monkey".

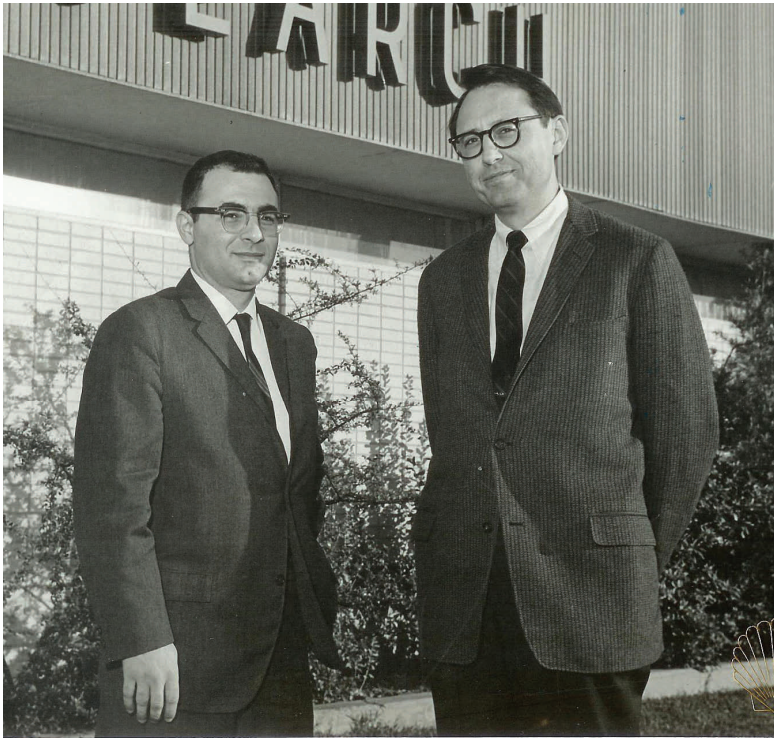
Christmas Party, ca '64

Dorothy Sellars, Lee Scott, ?, ?, Lois Davis, ?



Christma Party, ca '64

Carroll Oubre Clovis Davis, Bob Montgomery



In the mid-60's we did a lot of interviewing and hiring. I don't remember exactly how many we added but it was a large increase in staff. Here is a formal picture taken when Tony interviewed in 1966.

Interview, '66

Tony Gatti

Bob Robinson



We can put a good date on this picture as Jan and Ans Oelderik spent 1967-1968 at the Deer Park Lab on exchange from KSLA. The exchange was a July to July event.

Christmas Party 1967

Bill and Lois Lawrence, Ans Oelderik, George Paulissen, Jan Oelderik, Eloise and Burt Arnold



**Charles & Carol Goeking, Ann McAndrew, Janine & Roy Levitch
Christmas Party, '67 Nina & Paul Conn, Jean and Wes Parker**

This picture may also have been taken at our Christmas party in 1967, although it could have been in 1968. It shows the young people who had just been hired into the lab in 1966-1967.



When Mac Nager was transferred to Emeryville, he got quite a send-off in January, 1968. One of the things he was presented with was his own tartan of the McNager clan.

Mac's Transfer Party, '68

Mac Nager

E.O. Kindschy, George Paulissen, Tony Gatti



This is the only picture we found of our '68 dance.

Christmas Party, '68

Gus and Alice Carlson, Dot and Bill Fowler, Billy and Jim Bishop



1970, starting at bottom, l to r: Jan Locklear Adkison, Maxine Wallace, Lee Scott, Betty Reagan Richardson, Anita Essary, Brenda Hughes Schubert, Delma Walters, Shirley Strickler Lintner, Shirley Decou, Sheri Ashby, Esther Ando

Back in 1970, these women were called secretaries, except for Esther who was the librarian. Now, however, they would be considered administrative assistants and rightly so! In 1970 we wrote our monthly and project reports by hand, so there was a very heavy typing load. And the scribbling and illegibility was bad at times. I remember one time reviewing a report and I couldn't make out some words. I went to the author and asked him to clarify what it said. He couldn't do it either! No computers to do the work! But once everyone had a computer, their work consisted more of arranging appointments, schedules, meetings and conferences. A far cry from what they were doing 40 years ago.

While a lot of these general parties were being held, there were a number of informal gatherings associated with the lab. One of the best was the poker and domino parties held at Len Gallik's garage in Deer Park. It was quite convenient to the lab and people would gather there after work for poker and dominoes. Best of all, Len enjoyed cooking so we ate pretty well also. Some remember greasy sausage but I remember the finest venison I had ever had. I don't remember whether it was Bill Grisham or Bob Myers who supplied Len with a venison roast and Len cooked it to a "T".



**Len Gallik's Garage. '70-'71
Bill Reese, Neil Babcock, Henry Kretzschar, ? Les Ross, Gary Welch**

Nobody has been able to put an exact date on when Len started inviting us to use his garage but it was sometime after the '62-'63 strike. Everyone enjoyed the dominoes, poker and food.

Another activity that was enjoyed by many were the seemingly continuous domino games, championed by Henry Kretzschar mostly. Henry organized many groups and at various venues over the years. I think he also was the chief scorekeeper and probably has records going way back. Henry put this history of the domino group together for our Deer Park Pictorial History.

"I found some domino records from my "archives" that date back to 1971. I think that is the year we started playing at lunch time in Annex D in Deer Park. The first players were Jim Crawford, Bill Reese, Bob Addison, Doug Cochran, Jerry Sullivan and I. In the back of Annex D we came up with a round robin of 10 games for three member teams using 6 players. We used a very sophisticated computer to determine the teams at that time, a piece of chalk and a blackboard. As time went by we would add players to fill in for people that would move, retire or just be absent for the day. We used an office in Annex D, whose office I don't remember, to play at lunch time. Then the game moved

to the new EPC building, where I was moved to since I kept the score of games and records each day. When we moved to Westhollow the game was played in M-2292 technician's office. Later it was moved to the M building Lunch room. The lunch time domino game lasted until the mid to late 1990's. A lot of us retired and the lunch time game ended.

"Dominoes have been played at various locations. We played in Leonard Gallik's garage. Usually on Fridays after work, eating sausage and BBQ with a few beers. A lot of trips were made to Jerry Sullivan's house on Toledo Bend reservoir. We also played dominoes at John Buffum's beach house on Bolivar. Our first domino trip out of state was to Herb Buchholz's cabin in Breckenridge, CO in 1986. The next year we went to Warren Armstrong's cabin in Truckee, CA. We have made this trip for 23 years.

"Here is a list of some of the people I remember that have played dominoes over the years: Henry Kretschmar, Jim Crawford, Bill Reese, Bob Addison, Doug Cochran, Jerry Sullivan, Leo Taylor, Neil Babcock, Bill King, Raul Pena, Ken Kachel, Dick Young, John Buffum, Doyle Rains, Joel Paulk, James Johnson, Warren Armstrong, Mike Moore, Alan DelPaggio, Herb Buchholz, David Parker, David Singleton, Paul Conn, Dave Richardson, Charlie R. Adams, Skip Smith, Bo Davis, Mike Treybig, Peter Glockner, John Mahler, Glenn McCullough, Murray McAndrew, Ed Hawkins, Yosh Sakauye, John Miller. There may be more.

It is apparent that a very large number of Deer Parkers participated in the domino games. Gary Welch has made the comment that it looks as if all we did was drink beer and play dominoes.

Doc Baker retired as head of analytical in 1971, after working at the lab since its beginning, sometime in the '30's. At that time 65 was the mandatory retirement age. Russ Hodgson took over as manager of analytical.



Doc Baker's Retirement Party 1971
Molly and Tony Gatti **Doc and Bessie Baker**



This picture could have been taken at Doc Baker's retirement party but we are not certain. Chuck hired in in 1966 but left in the early '70's to help design and build the Aramco refinery. He returned to Shell some time later.

**Sometime in 1970-1971
Tony Gatti, Chuck Gerheim, Molly Gatti, Stan Brandenberger**

Lois and Allen supplied music for our 1971 Christmas party.



**Christmas Party, '71
Lois Davis, Alan Riggs**



There is some question as to where this party took place. Several people have suggested it occurred at the Ellington Officer's Club.

Christmas Party, '71
Molly Gatti, Paul Conn Jimmy Martin, Eloise and Burt Arnold, Clovis Davis



Christmas Party, '71
Left: Glen & Emmy McCullough, Tony & Molly Gatti, Paul Conn
Right: Gus & Alice Carlson, Helen & Ray Clerc

There is some uncertainty with regard to identifying Helen. The best reason to say it is Helen is that the Clercs and Carlsons were pretty close, so who else would it be at this table?



Picnic 1972

Wade Callender, Paul Conn

In 1972 the Emeryville lab was shut down and many of their researchers came to the Deer Park lab. The parties and activities continued and the new people melded into and enhanced the Deer Park culture.



Shellwood, '73-'74

Les Ross, Cres Fleming, Gary Welch, ?, John Mahler, Henry Kretschmar, Herb Buchholz, Doug McMullen(standing, right)

Shrimp boils were pretty popular in those days. As I remember, Gordon Shafer, the lab photographer, was often the boiler of the shrimp. As soon as they came to a boil, they were done! It is still a very good practice to follow.



**Roy Levitch, Wade Callender, Paul Conn, John Mahler, Gary Welch Ben Charba
Shrimp Boil, 1973**



**Shrimp Boil, '73
Gary Welch, Cres Fleming Herb Buchholz**



Shrimp Boil, '73
Carol Hodgson Clovis Davis Ginger Meerbot Russ Hodgson



Deer Park Picnic, October, '73
Nina Conn. Janine Levitch, ?, Marie Anne & Bernard Post, Barry Levitch (in pen)
Bruce Winqvist, Paul Conn (left background)



Shrimp Boil, '74
Clovis Davis

Bill Meerbott John Cole

This was the last picnic we had at Deer Park. In the summer of '75 we moved to Westhollow.

Bill Bailey retired in March of 1975. For Bill, it was an automatic retirement age at 65.



Bill Bailey's Retirement Party, '75
Janine Levitch, Irv Doty, Molly and Tony Gatti

We had a lot of fine parties at Deer Park but we also did a lot of excellent work. Although Bill Bailey was very instrumental in the great environment, it was also true that the people of Deer Park were by and large a very congenial bunch. The two things combined to make a very good place to work.



Jim Ferry's Retirement Party, '84

Harold Holliday Corky Ostrander Tony Gatti

I added several more pictures to the history even though they were taken well after Deer Park closed. But they included several people who were an integral part of the Deer Park History. In 1984 Jim Ferry retired from Shell and they held a party for him. Harold, Tony and Corky were some of the attendees. Harold deserves particular attention as he has kept the group laughing for many years

Things really get funny when Harold is paired with his sidekick, Jerry Sullivan. Believe or not, Jerry is rather shy until it comes to needling someone such as a Dave Richardson or telling jokes. This

picture, taken long after he retired, is one of the few we have found. I haven't found one of him when he was working at Deer Park.



Jerry Sullivan

Jim Ferry started in Deer Park in the early '50's. He worked in the pilot plants in Deer Park and later at Westhollow as a foreman. He died in 1987, three years after he retired.



Jim Ferry Retirement Party, '84