



Happy Easter!



vigor

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Texas Instruments' Retirees

April – May 2009

A Message from the President

How exciting this year has been so far! We had a record attendance at our February luncheon meeting. Our great trip to the [South Texas Project in Bay City](#) in February was succeeded by another great trip and attendance record breaker in March to the Galveston/Houston Co-cathedral. Along with this, our membership roster has also reached a record number of members since the founding of the club! Let's keep this up by participating in our events and encouraging other TI retirees to **join your club**.

I want to welcome all the new members to our club. Please get the fullest benefit of your club by joining us at our monthly luncheon meetings, our trips and our special events throughout the year. I want to encourage those of you who have access to the internet to visit our [club web site](#) (www.tiretirees.org) and review all that is available. The [photo gallery](#) has a great number of pictures on past trips and events and there is more to come!

Last December I was asked by Dot Adler, VP Communications for the TI Alumni Association if I could write an article on our club for their TI Alumni News which is their quarterly newsletter to their members. I did and it became available on their website in March. You can view the write-up by going online to www.tialumni.org/tiaa/downloads/alumni2009q1.pdf. Scroll down until you see the four smiling faces of your officers! If clicking (or copy and paste) on the above link does not work, you can also 1. Go to www.tialumni.org 2. Click on "TI Alumni Newsletter 1Q 2009" 3. "Current Issue 1Q 2009"

April 23 is our Pot Luck Dinner and White Elephant followed by a regular Bingo for some excellent prizes. Come out and have some fun, bring a guest, laugh or admire the white elephant gifts that members bring and for a small donation play for the better gifts bought by the club or bought and donated by some of our members. The top prize will be a \$50 gift card. Look at the flyer in this edition and please call Lynn as soon as you can and let her know what you will be bringing as a side.

Next month on April 15 we will have a speaker from TI at our luncheon. His name is Curt Moore, Site Manager for TI Stafford. Curt will speak on the state of TI.

We also have a law enforcement officer, Sgt. Joe Lee, who will speak at our May 20th Luncheon meeting. Sgt. Lee will speak on Crime prevention and scams seniors need to be aware of during these hard economic times.

I will have more information on our speakers in our Luncheon reminder emails.

Read more about the events, trips and some of the things our members have been doing.

Here's hoping to see you at next meeting, trip or event. Enjoy this Newsletter.

Ralph Garcia 281-980-3702

Rgarcia28@windstream.net <<<< New email address

Reminder: TIRET Annual Dues are \$10 if paid by March 31. Renewals after that date are \$2.00 extra!!!.

Coming Events:



April 15, 2009 Wednesday lunch at the Golden Corral – 11:00 am. We will have a Manager from T.I., Curt Moore, speaking on the “State of T.I.” and what direction the company is taking. This should be of interest to all of us. Tell the cashier that you are there for the TIRET meeting to get your discounted meal and drink for \$5.75 +tax. If you bring someone who qualifies to be a member and they join, you will get a voucher for a free meal at this Golden Corral. There will be door prizes and good food. See you there!

April 23, 2009 Thursday at the TI Cafeteria/Auditorium we have our annual Pot Luck Bingo White Elephant event! We will be enjoying another great night of eating and entertainment. The main entrée will be provided by the club. If you are planning on attending, please let **Lynn Stefan** know as we need a head count. Also, she is recording what each member is bringing. **Lynn** can be reached at 713-777-2805. Our plan for the White Elephant Bingo is to play until all gifts brought in by our members are given away. Following our White Elephant Bingo we will play Regular Bingo. For a donation of \$5.00 per member, those wishing to continue will play 10 games for prizes provided by the club, or donated by the members. Last year we had some members who unexpectedly brought in gifts for the Regular bingo. It was greatly appreciated and if anyone plans to do so again please let **Ralph** know so you can be properly recognized. **Ralph** can be reached at 281-980-3702 come join us for a fun-time!!! **Check our Web Site <<www.firefires.org>> for more info.**

May 20, 2009 Wednesday – Lunch at the Golden Corral 11:00 am. We have been having some great attendance. We look forward to seeing you there. Come have time to visit with former employee friends while enjoying good food. There will be door prizes.

May 27, 2009 Wednesday- A tour is planned to go to the home of “Shiner”, Spoetzl Brewery. **Charles Slanina**, our new **tour director**, is in charge of this tour and he can be reached at 281-499-1404. Make your reservation with him and send your check to **923 Robin Hood, Stafford TX. 77477**. The cost is only \$16.00 PP. See the enclosed flyer for additional details.

June 22, 2009 A tour is planned to see the Painted Churches in Schulenburg, Texas. Call **Charles Slanina** to make your reservation. There will be more information in the future—stay tuned.

Israel Morales is hosting a garage sale at his residence possibly in July (date not yet set) for the T.I. Retirees in order to raise some money for a new microphone/speaker or possibly a projector system. He will need garage-sale items to sell and several volunteers to help out. If you have anything to donate please let Israel know at 281-498-2219.

Although still early, mark your calendar for the ‘T.I. Evening Event 20th Anniversary’ on September 24, 2009, and our annual “Christmas Party” scheduled for December 15, 2009.

A reminder that three zip codes in Fort Bend County are changing in June and you need to contact **Tony Leigh** with your new zip code so he can update the membership roster. **Tony** can be reached at 281-341-0540.

PAST NEWS

On February 12, 2009, 37 members and guests left for a visit to Blessing to visit the Hotel Blessing and Coffee Shop for a lunch of simply delicious southern cooking, self-served from steaming pots and pans on old pot-belly stoves. The Hotel Blessing was built in 1906 by Jonathan E. Pierce, is owned presently by the Blessing Historical Foundation and is still open for business while being restored (since 1978). After the meal we drove a few miles southeast to the Visitor’s Center at the South Texas Project (STP). We were met by the Public Affairs Coordinator, Sheila Ormand, who welcomed us and showed us a video about the construction of the two

nuclear (electrical power generating) reactors [soon to be expanded to four] which also covered many of the operating and safety measures that keep it operating reliably. Back on the bus for a site tour with Sheila as our escort, we entered the protected compound and drove up on the dam wall containing the 7,000 acre cooling reservoir, from where we viewed the site containing the domed reactors. Returning to the center, Sheila arranged for instructor John Hodges to escort us into the Simulator & Training Control Room that emulates the ones within the two reactors. He graciously explained the lights and switches and continuous training needed to ensure safety. We had ample time to ask every conceivable question and receive answers. We had another great trip – weather, food, fellowship. Besides the pictures in this Vigor, others are on our website.

Call the day trip director to reserve a bus seat for our next economical day trip, on display at our website. Guests are encouraged. See you soon.

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February 18, 2009 Lunch at the Golden Corral was the largest attendance for a regular Luncheon. We had a total of “63” in attendance. Birthdays were celebrated by (we sing Happy Birthday) **Sally Anderson, Ralph Garcia, Denise Parsons, Lawson Cook, Opal Kuykendahl, Eddie Dickey, and Dolores Baugh. Thomas and Jeanette Johnson and Bill and Mary Young** celebrated their wedding anniversaries. Golden Corral gift certificates were won by **Kay Cook and Jeanette Sherman. Tony Leigh** won a bottle of wine donated by **Jeanette Castle**. She has been so gracious to donate toward our door prizes.

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For those of you who remember **Georgia Spears**, (her husband, **Bob Spears**, was our treasurer and very active in our club) she died March 15, 2009. She was 91

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Thomas and Jeanette Johnson celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary February 27 & 28th at L’auberge dulac in Lake Charles, LA. They had a wonderful time.

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Jeanne Brandt had colon surgery March 2, 2009. She is recovering well at her sister’s home. We wish you Godspeed **Jeanne**, and hope to see you back soon.

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March 18, 2009 We had lunch at the Golden Corral with 42 in attendance. We have been having many new members coming to our luncheons, and we welcome them!! There was only one birthday celebration for **Glenda Winton**. The gift certificate door prizes were won by **Tony Leigh and Glenda Winton**. We didn’t have any wedding anniversaries in March. This is when it got to be funny. **Jeanette Castle** donated two bottles of wine, and **Sally Anderson** donated one. **Jeanette Castle’s** number was drawn so she took **Sally Anderson’s** bottle because it was homemade, and the other two winners were **Candy Torres and Jeanette Johnson**, who each won a bottle of wine.

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We have been missing **Beverley Cayton** at our luncheons lately. In February she had surgery for a detached retina. She seemed to be healing just fine when somehow it became detached again. She had more surgery. Her third surgery was on March 12. She said in 8 to 10 weeks there may be a fourth. Golly!! Enough is enough!! We send our prayers to **Beverley!**

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Since **Beverley** hasn’t been able to drive her mother, **Lydia Barker**, to the luncheons, **Larry Dobrova**, her son –in-law, drove. Well, **Lydia** didn’t make it to the March 18th luncheon because **Larry Dobrova** had to have pacemaker surgery. Get Well **Larry!!**

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The week of spring break **Kay and Lawson Cook** got out their 5th wheel trailer and visited Wharton and Bay City. In Wharton they camped at the historic Tee Pee Motel and RV Park and enjoyed the historic town. In Bay City they camped across the Matagorda Birding Center and enjoyed the area birding.

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Don Carpenter went on the Salt Grass Trail ride February 21-28, 2009. This was his 31st year to spend the whole week. He said he wasn't taking a horse this time because he has already outlived several horses. **Editors note:** You shouldn't be so hard on those poor horses. **Don!**

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Bill and Mary Young spent 4 days at Canyon Lake in a condo with their son, **Brad**. One day they visited friends in Kerrville, and the next day they met their daughter, **Betsy**, in New Braunfels to celebrate their grand daughter's birthday. They ate at the airport lounge. The following week they went to Marksville, LA to the Paragon Casino and spent 4 days with **Bill's** brother and wife. Both trips were very enjoyable.

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Glenda Winton is one of our new members and just recently retired. She said she is a Notary Public and is willing to bring her notary stamp to our meeting if we need to have anything notarized at no charge to us. That's so nice Glenda! Thank you!!!

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TIRET goes on a Cathedral Tour, March 24 2009. It took a full bus plus several private carloads for our adventure, but all 45 of us got to the Galveston/Houston Roman Catholic Diocese Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. It turned out to be a day trip attendance record, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the magnificence of the tour, plus the Pizza Party at CiCi's that followed.

The Church is just under one year old, and yet has already recorded huge visiting crowds from around the globe rivaling those of the many famous ancient churches of Europe and the rest of the world. This limestone and marble structure is both inspirational and awesome at the same time -- both inside and out! Italian carved statues abound, life like sub-altar statues dominate at the cruciform apex's, the Nave is huge, and its ceiling is embellished by a 117 foot dome over the altar area. Multiple stained-glass windows permeate throughout, and are culminated by one forty foot tall Risen Christ Window at the main entrance/exit. Historic and (Church) symbolic renderings are everywhere: each having a spiritual and artistic message. The entire Sanctuary area, including the mensa (table) itself, is of rare rose-colored marble keeping in synch with the Cathedral's name. It was truly a unique experience to witness such an edifice right here in greater Houston.

Bob Gruber, Tour Director

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Poor **Don Stefan!** First he had a watermelon accident; secondly, he was in an accident as a passenger in the front seat with a neighbor who hit the gas peddle instead of the brakes when trying to park. They hit the Black Eyed Pea building where they had reservations for dinner. He has had a great deal of chest pain from the pressure of the seat belt. Now his third episode happened when he was called to come to the same couple's home to see the results of damage from Hurricane Ike. While he was there three men with a gun appeared and pushed Don and the couple down on the floor and told them to be quiet. We are so thankful, no one was shot, and the only injuries were from being knocked down on the floor. What's next **Don?**

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Lynn Stefan is scheduled to have a heart catherization procedure April 2, 2009!

Edith Brewer has a talking parrot who calls her EEEEEEDDDITH. When she visits her family in Germany for two months, the parrot gets so mad at her he won't talk to her for several days after she returns.

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Note: This was written by Israel, and his total excitement is expressed better in his own words!!

On March 14 **Nora** and I joined a Catholic Church group of 79 from Houston on an 11 Day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This was the best vacation we have ever taken. Those of you who have been to The Holy Land understand what I am talking about. This Holy Land Tour was educational, exciting and very inspirational. To walk on the steps of Our Lord was very moving. It seems that every major act that Jesus did there is now a Church where one can pray or meditate. Cities visited were Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Capernaum, Nazareth, Tiberius, Jericho, and Jerusalem and others. We sailed on the Sea of Galilee. We swam in the Dead Sea. In Cana where Jesus performed His first miracle - changing water into wine at a wedding - **Nora** and I renewed our wedding vows. On the Jordan River, the spot where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, we were both baptized. We touched the spot where Baby Jesus supposedly laid. We walked (carrying a cross) the Path of Sorrows. That was the route that Jesus walked on His final moments from the spot He was tried and sentenced to Calvary where He was crucified. We touched the spot where His Cross was inserted into the ground. We saw the tomb from where he rose. Every day was a full Sermon. This was the best way to really understand the Gospels. Oh, and we had great guides that did a great job. The food was great, hotels excellent. Everything went well.

Israel Morales

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Please contact the Sunshine Committee if you hear of any of our retirees with serious illnesses, surgeries, or deaths so we can let families know we care by sending cards from the Retirees. Call **Lynn Stefan 713-777-2805**

Vigor Staff

Editor and Reporter ----- Lynn Stefan

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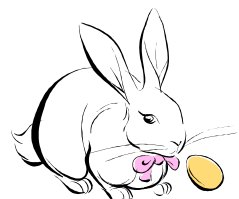
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Gem of the Day!

After an exhaustive review of the research literature, here's the final word on nutrition.

1. Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
 2. Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
 3. Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
 4. Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
 5. Germans drink beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
- Conclusion: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you!



TI RETIREE CLUB
ECONOMICAL SOCIALIZING & FUN IN '09

Thurs April 23, 2009

FOOD, BINGO – then SUPER BINGO!

POTLUCK DINNER

👉 Volunteer to bring your favorite (six servings) dish...but first call Lynn at 713-777-2805 to coordinate/apportion the side dishes [TELL LYNN HOW MANY INTEND TO COME !!]

Salads, vegetables & yummie desserts!

Note: a complementary entrée will be served on site, plus coffee & tea

Bingo

0-71

ALSO, BRING ONE OR MORE CASUALLY WRAPPED, 'WHITE ELEPHANT' GIFTS AS **BINGO** PRIZES (guests too)!!

Regular bingo! Everybody plays and **wins** ONE or more 'white elephant' prizes!



SUPER PRIZES



DONATE \$\$ TO PLAY



CLUB MEMBER, SPOUSE OR ALTERNATE

↑ No charge! ↑

ALL OTHER GUEST, \$2 PER PERSON

TI CAFETERIA/AUDITORIUM -- FESTIVITIES START AT 6:30 P.M.

SIGN UP/CALL TODAY! JOIN THE FUN! HELP ENJOY THE "PRIZES"!

For added info, call RALPH GARCIA

281-980-3702

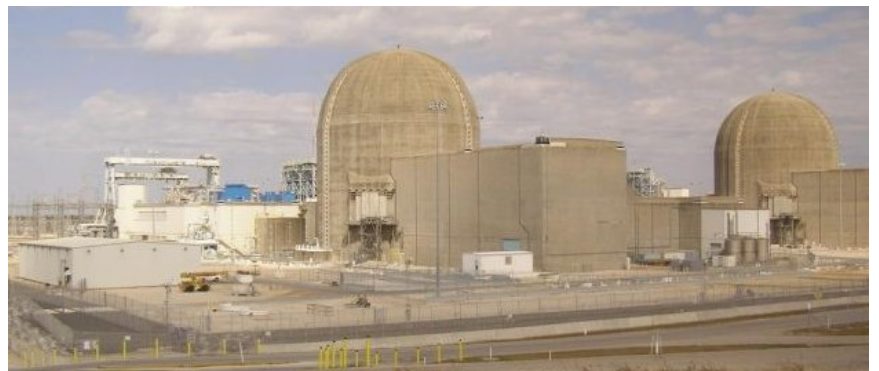
TIRET DAY TRIP – February 12, 2009



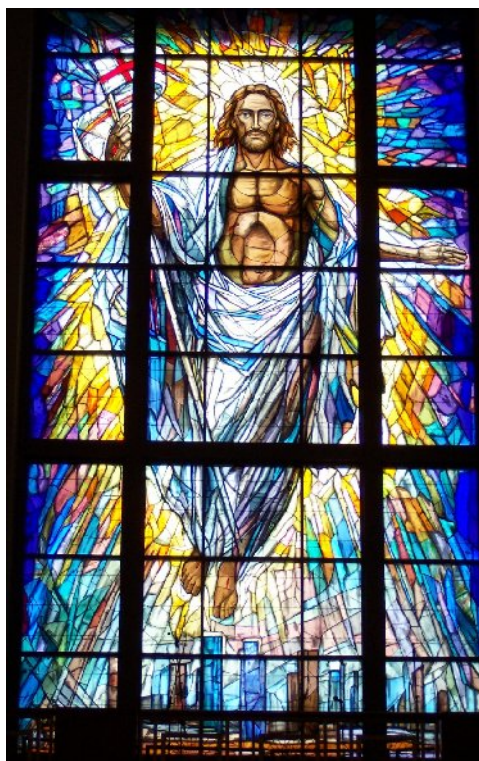
HOTEL BLESSING & Coffee Shop
in Blessing, TX

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT

Visitor's Center – orientation room and Control
Room Simulator; on site reactor domes



Houston-Galveston Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart – March 24, 2009



Lotsa pizza & salad at Cici's Pizza
(front—trip organizer Bob Gruber & wife Marian)
(rear—Tony Amante & wife Dee)

TIRET: ECONOMICAL SOCIALIZING & FUN IN '09

WED MAY 27, 2009

WE ARE VISITING SHINER

[AM – Church PM – Brewery]

**HOME of "Shiner"
SPOETZL BREWERY**

**Saints Cyril & Methodius
CATHOLIC CHURCH**



... history ...



Edwin Wolters
Memorial Museum



Oldest brewery in Texas -- 1909

- Escorted tour
- 4 samplings permitted: *Bock, Blonde, Kolsch, Hefeweizen, Dunkelweizen and Shiner Light*
- **Note:** lemonade is available too
- Hospitality suite & gift shop

- Awe inspiring – outside and inside*
- Romanesque Revival architecture
 - Majestic alter
 - Painted murals
 - Land purchased in 1891
 - Designated a parish in 1912
 - Stained glass windows – Bavaria
 - National Historic Registry 1983

LUNCH IS JUST AROUND THE 'CORNER' AT THE...

COUNTRY CORNER CAFÉ-

BUFFET LINE – fresh every day, salad bar, drink, veggies

COST IS ONLY \$16.00 PP

THIS INCLUDES FOOD, TRANS, ALL TAXES AND TIPS

GUEST ALWAYS WELCOME!

WE LEAVE BAYLAND PARK AT 7:00 A.M. (PLS BE THERE AT 6:45)

{rest break about ½ way}

SIGN UP TODAY TO SECURE YOUR RESERVATION

Charles Slanina 281-499-1404

1985 Service Anniversaries

January



Nora Morales
Design Svc - STA I
15 years

March



Sylvia Carruba
Employee Sales - STA I
15 years

April



Herb Roehrig
Geophysical Svc. - Commerce Park
25 years

April



Estelle Adamo
Mat. Control - STA I
20 years

June



Bill Hecox
Process Eng. - STA II
30 years

June



Dorothy Wade
Comm. Svc's - STA I
15 years

June



Wilma Roth
Consumer Prod. Comm. Park
20 years

June



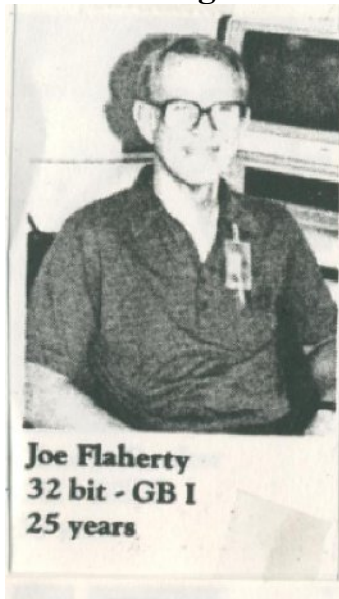
Eugenia Brown
MOS III - STA I
15 years

August



Don Venker
G.O. - CYP
35 years

August



Joe Flaherty
32 bit - GB I
25 years

August



Russ Timm
Seismic Svc. - C. Park
25 years

1985 Service Anniversaries

August



Lawson Cook
Non-Volatile - STA I
15 years

August



Barbara Lewis
Dsgn Svc. - STA I
15 years

September



Jim Osborne
Sfc. Analysis - STA I
25 years

September



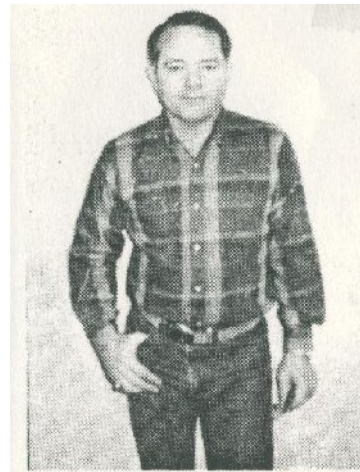
Ardeth Ewing
32K - GB I
20 years

September



Rosa Barefield
MOS III - STA I
15 years

November



Gene Calkins
Auto Layout - GB I
10 years