

Wheel in a wheel

Readers' Album



It was a beautiful day for Norman Sheppard on March 2. He was in London for the birth of his first grandchildren — twins. He and his daughter were making the most of a rare clear day in London, when he took this photo of the London Eye from the adjacent embankment of the River Thames. Sheppard hails from England, but he has lived for more than three years in Dhahran, where he works at Joint Ventures Coordination and Development.

(Photo by Norman Sheppard)

Lynette Hardy retires after 17-year career

By Stephen L. Brundage

DHAHRAN — After 17 years of service to Saudi Aramco, senior secretary Lynette Hardy plans to retire at the end of April.

Lynette, as an executive secretary, can tackle any secretarial task at any level with little difficulty.

She's developed those skills over the years. A native of Bath, England, she started her overseas career in 1978 working in Libya for Occidental International Oil. She also has worked in Norway, Bermuda and South Africa, and even did a stint with the European Parliament in Luxembourg before joining Saudi Aramco in 1990, where her first job was as secretary to the Aviation Department's chief pilot.

"When I started in Aviation," Lynette said, "the department had only two or three Saudi pilots out of a total of 65. Now I believe that most of the pilots are in fact Saudi. I have seen phenomenal progression and growth in Saudi Arabia through the successes of Saudi Aramco."

From 1994-1996, Lynette worked with Employee Relations, Policy and Planning before signing on with Vela International Marine until 1999. After that, she took her present position as a senior secretary in the Secretarial Services Unit for the Dhahran Core Area.

She fondly looks back at her career and notes that her job at Saudi Aramco is the one she held the longest. "I have been extremely fortunate and privileged to work at high levels of executive and corporate management in a truly international environment, and I believe I took away with me positive experiences from each of the assignments I have completed," Lynette said.



Lynette Hardy

Lynette also pursued hobbies here in Dhahran. She became an avid quilter as a member of the Quilt Group, and she also loves painting in watercolor. Many people have enjoyed her paintings in Art Group exhibits.

Lynette says she hopes to slow down a little in retirement and take time to sew, paint and walk her new Labrador retriever puppy, Coco. She's also decided to make her home in Hout Bay in Capetown, South Africa, where she has bought a bed and breakfast business. She says she wants to offer themed golfing and painting vacations and hopes that she'll see many of her old Saudi Aramco friends there.

Her trip to her new home begins April 30. She says she'll be cooking breakfast for her guests at Hout Bay the next day.

Lynette welcomes communication from her former colleagues, who can reach her at 19 Meadow Lane, Hout Bay 7806, Cape Town, South Africa; Tel: 27 21 7905361; or hardylx@hotmail.com, or can visit her bed-and-breakfast Web site at www.nenya.co.za.

Movies of the Week

DHAHRAN

APRAIRIE HOME COMPANION, starring Lillie Tomlin and Meryl Streep (comedy, PG-13) — Wed., April 4, 5:30 p.m.; Thu., April 5, 8 p.m.; and Fri., April 6, 5:30 p.m.

ZOOM, starring Tim Allen and Courteney Cox Arquette (action, PG) — Wed., April 4, 8 p.m.; Thu., April 5, 5:30 p.m.; and Fri., April 6, 8 p.m.

SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS, starring Billy Bob Thornton and Jon Heder (comedy, PG-13) — Sat., April 7, 5:30 p.m.; and Wed., April 11, 8 p.m.

FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS, starring Ryan Phillippe and Jesse Bradford (drama, R) — Sat., April 7, 8 p.m.; and Wed., April 11, 5:30 p.m.

FIREWALL (return), starring Harrison Ford and Paul Bettany (crime/PG-13) — Sun., April 8, 5:30 p.m.

FREEDOMLAND (return), starring Samuel L. Jackson and Julianne Moore (crime/drama, R) — Sun., April 8, 8 p.m.

ABQAIQ

SOMETHING NEW (return), starring Sanaa Lathan (romance, PG-13) — Wed., April 4, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

THE GRUDGE 2, starring Amber Tamblyn and Sarah Michelle Gellar (horror, PG-13) — Thu., April 5, and Fri., April 6, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

STORMBREAKER, starring Ewan McGregor and Mickey Rourke (action, PG) — Sat., April 7, and Sun., April 8, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

FUN WITH DICK AND JANE (return), starring Jim Carrey and Tea Leoni (comedy, PG-13) — Wed., April 11, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

NAJMAH

Najmah Theater is closed for an upgrade until May.

'UDHAILIYAH

DEJA VU, starring Denzel Washington and Paula Patton (action, PG-13) — Wed., April 4, 5 p.m.; Thu., April 5, 8 p.m.; and Fri., April 6, 5 p.m.

STEP UP, starring Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan (music, PG-13) — Wed., April 4, 8 p.m.; Thu., April 5, 5 p.m.; and Fri., April 6, 8 p.m.

THE PRESTIGE, starring Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale (drama, PG-13) — Sat., April 7, 5 p.m.; and Wed., April 11, 8 p.m.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST, starring Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom (action, PG-13) — Sat., April 7, 8 p.m.; and Wed., April 11, 5 p.m.

SOMETHING NEW (return), starring Sanaa Lathan (romance, PG-13) — Sun., April 8, 5 and 8 p.m.

Movie Reviews

A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION: Robert Altman looks at what goes on backstage during the last broadcast of America's most celebrated radio show, where singing cowboys Dusty and Lefty, a country music siren and a host of others hold court. (2006)

ZOOM: Former superhero Jack is called back to work to transform an unlikely group of ragtag kids into superheroes at a private academy. (2006)

SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS: A young guy short on luck enrolls in a class to build confidence and win over the girl of his dreams, which becomes complicated when his teacher has the same agenda. (2006)

FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS: The life stories are told of the six men who raised the flag at the Battle of Iwo Jima, a turning point in World War II. (2006)

FIREWALL: A security specialist is forced into robbing the bank that he's protecting as a bid to pay off his family's ransom. (2006)

FREEDOMLAND: A black police detective must solve a strange case of a kidnapped boy and deal with a big racial protest. (2006)