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1953: January 11 for March 2, 2016

Not because he saw himself named in our recent PAW as a geology graduate, but out of the blue we heard from explorer **Bill Rogers**, now happily retired in Los Lunas, NM. He looks back on decades of exploration and adventure and many years living in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where he met his American Wife Sandra Lou (after being impressed by her skill as a belly dancer). Bill rose to be Chief Geologist of Aramco. ‘I’ve had adventures and insights in travels from Zimbabwe to Arabia. Europeans and Americans have often been in error with facts: The Sudanese government is not housed in Khartoum – it is near Khartoum but across the Nile River in Omdurman. The capital for the Nabataeans who ran the Spice Trail from Hadhramut to the Mediterranean was not Petra, or even in Jordan. It was in Saudi Arabia at Madain Salih.

In the heyday of the European colonialism, the original inhabitants were usually forbidden to possess firearms. Shotguns were sometimes allowed, but never rifles. In my areas of exploration and prospecting the summers were too hot to keep perishables, so we had to improvise a source of fresh meat. We taught the local nomad boys to rundown small mammals or to knock birds out of the air with sticks like the Irish walking sticks. In Arabic they are called “Mishabs”.

Years earlier during my work on the Alaskan Dew Line (Distant Early warning) I taught the native boys along the Kuskokwim to knock down ptarmigan with sticks. (Taste better than African grouse). It was a long journey from the Nile to the Kuskokwim, but in-between I helped find an oil field on the Arabian Gulf Coast. I named it “Ras al Mishab”.

Fred Lawrence traveled recently, but not as far as from Alaska to Zimbabwe. Fred and Deb moved in June from Jericho, Vermont to Cumberland, Maine to be closer to grandkids. We Vermonters are sorry to lose him.

We learned from his son that **Fred Coffman** died in Savannah on October 2. I apologize for writing “Coffin” rather than Coffman for the PAW issue!