

— Family branch briefs —

- **Abbie Cross Emery** of McKinney, TX was graduated from the University of Cincinnati in August 2014 with a M.S. degree in nursing. A registered nurse, married to Brett Emery, son of Bunnie and Bob Emery of Metairie, LA, Abbie plans to continue working as a nurse practitioner in the Dallas area. Abbie, who holds a B.S. degree in nursing from LSU, and Brett, salesman for Lexion, supplier of surgical medical devices, have two daughters Taylor and Alexis. Brett, his daughters and mother are Stella family members.
- **Peter Gibbons Burke** of New Orleans passed peacefully Wednesday morning Sept. 17, 2014. Peter, 80, was a long-time attorney, avid sailor, inventor and author, and husband of Ginger Friedrichs Burke and father of Gibbons Burke, both former J.B. Levert Land Co. LLC board directors and Ella Marie family members. He's also survived by three other children and 12 grandchildren.

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forms and get the paperwork ready for the CPA.”

But she said she now has help with cleaning chores — dusting, vacuuming, waxing floors, washing walls. “I really enjoy the work at Couchwood because I feel like am helping to preserve it for the future generations of my family. Five generations of Couchs use it on a regular basis.”

Elizabeth's other part-time job is like, one could say, “Driving Miss Daisy.” She operates a business called “At Your Service” and provides transportation for the elderly who can no longer drive.

Elizabeth Dober was born 71 years ago in Little Rock, AR in 1943. She was graduated from Webster University in St. Louis, MO in 1965 with a degree in elementary education. She married David Dober in 1965, but after one semester of teaching the couple learned they were expecting their first of three children and she left the classroom for good. The couple later divorced in 1975.

Her daughter Deborah Belyeu lives in Plano, TX with husband Lee and sons Luke and Jack. She works at Kohl's and Lee is a consultant for EMC Corp., international engineering, marketing and computer software firm. Daughter Carol Wold is married to Scott and they have two sons Nicholas and Ethan and a daughter Berit. Carol works for the Little Rock Catholic Diocese and Scott is a consultant for SAP, multinational software supplier. Her son Mark, a geophysicist at URS, a seismograph firm, lives in San Francisco with long-time girlfriend Katie, director of a youth crisis center.

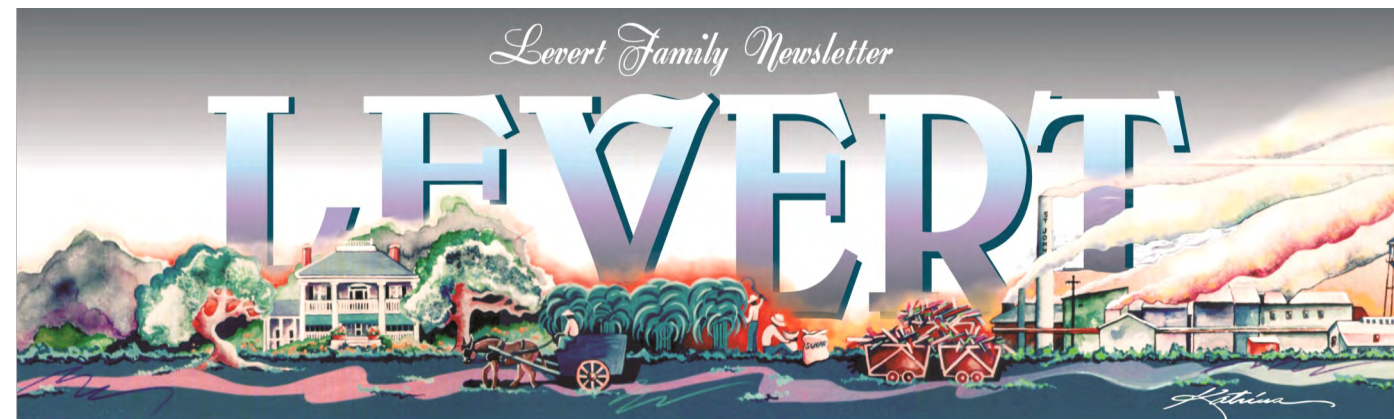
(Harvey Couch, Sr. Continued from page 3)

service roles, Elizabeth said President Herbert Hoover tapped “Daddy Couch” to serve as a director of the emergency Reconstruction Finance Corp. during the Great Depression. He was a director from 1931 to 1934 during the Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt administrations. As a director, Couch helped secure necessary financing to initiate some of the RFC's largest construction projects, including the Huey P. Long and San Francisco-Oakland Bay bridges.

“Electric lights, bridges, and promoting Arkansas were among grandfather's favorite things,” Elizabeth Dober told Arkansas Business magazine in its December 2013 issue celebrating Entergy's 100th Birthday. The issue was devoted to the life, times and career of “Daddy Couch.”



All fishing photos by: Andy Andolsek; Golf photos by : Troy Bellanger; & Annual Meeting photos by: Jenny Londono



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New Newsletter feature

Members of the John Alfred family branch get together for a photo shoot during the annual Levert stockholders meeting and family reunion in June 2014 at Sandestin, FL. The picture is the first of eight family branch photographs scheduled to appear in the newsletter. A group picture of a particular branch will be taken at every June meeting, and providing enough members from that branch attend, the picture will be featured in the October newsletter. Not pictured are John Farwell Levert, son of Martha and Freddy Levert, and John's new wife Lindsay Aquilina.

‘Everything is done . . .’ — Kearny

Final phase of the major capital improvements project at St. John House – new carpets, new curtains, and fresh coat of paint for three of the four upstairs bedrooms – has been completed.

“Everything is done, and we’ll go into maintenance mode regarding the house furniture,” said Frank Kearny, house committee chairman and Anna Beatrice family member. “Everything is in great shape, all heavy work is done. We’re going to concentrate now on cleanup outside the house.”

Major interior/exterior repairs and renovations, part of the extensive improvements program that began about 2010, also included:

- Emergency, major roof repairs, including Widow's Walk.
- Renovate winding stairs (stripped-refinished steps, new handrail spindles, etc.).
- Remodel downstairs bathrooms and second-floor bath on south side; replace flooring and plumbing, electrical fixtures.
- Re-carpet downstairs hall; repaint second-floor hallway walls, ceiling, crown molding; repaint and replace curtains in northwest bedroom upstairs.
- Repaint house exterior; add support railing on front gallery steps.
- Replace back gallery table and chairs.

President's message
Company staff busy little bees of late; may lead to higher earnings

Continuing my sentiments expressed in recent newsletter messages, your staff remains actively engaged in keeping up with the business at hand. Over the past months, Charlie Levert and his team worked long days and weekends around spotty rains to complete the 2014 sugarcane planting and to ensure that our soybean crop was harvested before weather-related losses occurred.

Improved economic conditions allowed Pam Tapie to keep especially busy backfilling new vacancies and leasing some long-time vacant properties. Along with selling an underperforming building and its replacement, conditions also led to a reduced overall company vacancy rate and an almost 100 percent occupancy rate for Levert St. John. Troy Bellanger has been busy with various commercial prospects and construction projects in Thibodaux and other areas, while both Troy and Jim Hooper are busy selling and marketing residential lots in Lafourche and St. Charles parishes, respectively.

Meanwhile, I am pursuing the sale of stale or moderate income-producing properties and the acquisition of new properties, which may lead to greater earnings potential. And there's been renewed interest to establish oil and gas drilling operations on Levert Lands, and these prospects are being advanced as well. It is my hope and desire that all our efforts will pay off and lead to increased earnings potential during the coming years!

Andy Andolsek, President

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Real estate happenings

Brisk demand for Levert lots continues well into 2014

The Joint development operations of J.B. Levert Land Co. LLC in St. Charles Parish appeared to have rebounded from the economic slowdown as a result of the 2008 recession, according to Jim Hooper, assistant company vice president.

This same situation was also evidenced last year by Troy Bellanger, vice president, Thibodaux operations, based on the brisk demand that followed the 2013 completion and sale of lots in Rienzi Place Subdivision, Addendum 2, Phase 1.

To date in 2014, the partnerships of Ashton Plantation Estates, LLC and Ridgeland Properties, LLC have sold 13 residential lots, with four additional lots under contract for sale later

this year. This is a significant improvement compared to the total of only 15 lots sold by the



partnerships from 2008 through 2013. At the same time, Plantation Acres LLC, Thibodaux, sold 30 residential lots in 2013, exhausting much of its remaining inventory.

A new phase comprised of 38 lots (Plantation Acres IV Subdivision, Addendum 4) has been permitted and construction is scheduled to begin within the coming weeks, according to Troy.

He reported that to date demand for lots in this subdivision has been strong with about 80 percent of the lots already placed under contract for sale prior to breaking ground.

Let's hope that this heightened demand continues into next year and many years to come, Troy added.

Down on the farm

Most soybeans gathered; sugarcane harvest began October 1

Spring conditions allowed the Company to prepare and plant 376 acres of soybeans on lands that were fallow, or lying in wait for planting of sugarcane this fall, according to Charlie Levert, vice president, agriculture operations.

Harvest of most of the 2014 integrated soybean crop ended September 23, yielding about 45 bushels per acre, netting an average price of \$10.70 per bushel. A total of 127 acres of "late beans" are to be harvested later in October, Charlie said.

Turning to the main revenue source, the 2014 sugarcane planting began August 8 and, with the exception of 20 acres, ended September 26 just in time, Charlie said, for start of the harvest October 1. A total of 1,155 acres of cane were planted, leaving the farm with 3,175 acres of cane for the mill to process into raw sugar after the seed required to fulfill planting

is deducted.

As referenced in the July newsletter, "We have been fortunate not to experience a hurricane this year and we had a favorable summer growing season, which seems to have offset some of the concerns associated with last year's long, cold winter conditions," Charlie said.

He said he's optimistic that this year's crop will bring average yields, weather permitting, although a favorable price for 2014 sugar doesn't look promising.

Forecasted setbacks in Brazil sugar production and duties likely to be imposed on imported Mexican sugar under NAFTA — result of alleged dumping of government-subsidized sugar into the U.S. market — likely will have no effect on U.S. sugar prices anytime soon. He said this is because of the high supply of stocks in the current market and due to increased production in Australia and India.

**100 years young!**

Angele Brierre Swanson, seated, widow of Jack Swanson, Jr., a grandson of Levert Companies founder, Jean Baptiste Levert, celebrated her 100th birthday in April 2014 at the Christwood Retirement Center in Covington, LA. She was honored by her three children, Bonnie Swanson Emery, red blouse; Jack Swanson III, standing behind his mother; and Peggy Swanson Rickard, blue dress; and Angele's five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren who traveled from all parts of the country to share in this special birthday party. (Photograph by Dan Milham.)



Director profile

'I am neither a homemaker nor housewife and wife to no man ...'

"I am neither a homemaker nor housewife and I am wife to no man or to my house." And since her two part-time jobs require so much of her time, "If you saw the inside of my house," well, you kinda get the picture.

Elizabeth Dober, Levert St. John LLC board director and Anna Beatrice family branch member, was emphatic when asked if she was employed and if so, what she did and did she consider herself a homemaker or housewife.

Homemakers are people who take care of households for themselves and for others who live with them. They are responsible for managing the resources of their households, maintaining the household budget, i.e., paying bills and taxes, and generally responsible for keeping their houses clean and running smoothly.

In a sense, however, Elizabeth is a homemaker, not so much for herself or her own house, but for her large family, the Couchs. For she manages and oversees all aspects of running Couchwood (CWD), the family woodland retreat and vacation mecca located near Hot Springs, AR—from

cleaning and managing the estate to performing routine upkeep and minor home repairs to conducting tours for historical groups and people who rent and stay at CWD.

Couchwood is the summer estate built by the late Harvey Couch, Sr., Elizabeth's grandfather, for his descendants. It rests on about 170 acres overlooking Lake Catherine, which was named for Couch's only daughter. It consists of four houses constructed between 1927 and 1941 of red cedar logs shipped from Oregon — Big House, Calhoun, Little Pine Bluff, and Rimmelwood—and a train car that was used by Couch as his private traveling car for business trips.

Elizabeth said she loves to talk to visiting groups and tourists about what kind of man her grandfather was, why there's a train car on the property, and how the family honors the legacy of "Daddy Couch." "It's no trouble at all to talk about grandfather or CWD," she said. "I love to tell all the stories."

Elizabeth said she's managed Couchwood for the last 14 years. "Our family has exclusive use of Couchwood in the summer, but it's



Couchwood was used by Harvey, Sr. to entertain guests from childhood friends to celebrities to U.S. presidents, including Herbert Hoover who visited in 1927 and FDR who visited in 1936. Couch is seated on the steps with both hands clasped to his left knee.

available for rent the rest of the year," she said. "We have a family reunion there every July Fourth. Seventy-three family members from all parts of the country attended the famous fried chicken dinner last July."

As CWD manager, Elizabeth said she tries to create a lively environment as comfortable and inviting as possible for her family and guest/tourists.

"I sometimes do feel I am married to Couchwood, though. I spend a lot of time cleaning it. I arrange for repairmen, such as plumbers and electricians, but a caretaker nearby meets with them. We have a cleaning service that does deep cleanings once a year. And I pay all the bills, fill out tax

(Homemaker Continued on page 4)

Harvey Couch, Sr. — visionary, doer, entrepreneur, founder of Entergy

Dreamer. Optimist. Entrepreneur. Investor in a telephone company, a railroad, and his greatest success, an electric company.

Take your pick. For Harvey Couch, Sr. (1887-1941), Elizabeth Couch Dober's grandfather, was all of these things.

"My grandfather has a history as interesting as the Leverts and the Kearnys," Elizabeth boasted, proudly.

She said "Daddy Couch," as he's affectionately known by the Couch family, came from a poor farming family in South Arkansas and had little education. He dropped out of high school to help run his family's farm located in one of the poorest areas of the state.

According to Elizabeth, one of her grandfather's first jobs was as a mail clerk on the St. Louis Railroad, where he first noticed construction workers installing telephone lines. Fascinated by what

he saw and thinking it could be profitable, she said, Couch and his partner created the North Louisiana Telephone Company in 1904. Seven years later, in 1911, her grandfather sold it to Southwestern Bell for a profit of more than \$1 million, with telephone service covering some 1,500 miles in four states.

Elizabeth said "Daddy Couch's" next interest was electric power, and he realized the challenge facing him was to "electrify" Arkansas. Thus, electric power service began in his home state when, in 1913, he incorporated the Arkansas Power Company. He renamed the company Arkansas Light and Power in 1915, then formed another partnership, naming the new company Arkansas Power and Light in 1926. And over the next 100 years, Harvey Couch's power lines would provide electricity to millions of customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and



Harvey Couch, Sr., standing behind FDR at far right, served as a director of the Reconstruction Finance Corp. in the administrations of Presidents Herbert Hoover and FDR from 1931 to 1934.

Mississippi as Entergy Corporation. Elizabeth's grandfather was the founder of Entergy and its first president from 1913 until his death in 1941.

Because of her grandfather's leadership skills, business acumen, and having served many public (Harvey Couch, Sr. Continued on page 4)