

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Retsco Int'l opens new facility.

Retsco Int'l Inc's new \$4 million dollar facility in northwest Houston includes the corporate headquarters, an engineering building and a 22,000-sq ft shop standing 50 ft high and including two 50-ton cranes. The facility provides office and work space for 60 employees for development and manufacture of their motion compensation technology for deepwater applications.

Randy Smith, Chevron ERTC partner. Randy Smith Training Schools and Chevron ERTC Training Center in Lafayette, La, have joined forces to create a competitive total training package in Chevron's state-of-the-art classroom facilities. The package also offers reasonable lodging and catering on the premises for large rig crews or client classes. Randy Smith Training Schools will conduct its

training courses on a regular basis at the Chevron Training Center; Chevron will continue to offer its own line of Production and Safety courses.

FirstWave wins Martin Gas contract.

First Wave/Newpark Shipbuilding was awarded a contract by **Martin Gas Marine Inc** of Houston for steel replacement, paint work and other maintenance on the ocean barge "Poseidon" at their 10,000 ton drydock at the company's East Pelican Island facility in Galveston, one of their 6 facilities in the Houston-Galveston area.

Keppel early on Smedvig contract. On March 12 **Smedvig Asia Ltd's** SSETR West Menang was christened at the **Keppel Shipyard**. **Keppel** expects to complete West Menang, its first Semi-Submersible Self-Erecting Tender Rig (SSETR), ahead of the schedule agreed upon when the contract was signed in February 1998. West Menang will operate initially on a 5-year contract with **Brunei Shell Petroleum**.

Shell E&P realigns managers. **Shell** recently revamped management for its E&P and downstream gas & power businesses. **Walter van de Vijver**, President/COO of **Shell Exploration & Production Co (SEPCo)** will become President/CEO of SEPCo, reporting to the **Royal Dutch/Shell Global EP Executive Committee**. He will be based in Houston. **Rich Pattarozzi**, General Manager for the deepwater Gulf of Mexico, will be promoted to Vice President of **Shell Offshore Inc**, remaining in New Orleans and reporting to Mr van de Vijver. **Paul Sullivan**, General Manager for the Shelf Division in the Gulf of Mexico, has been named



Retsco Int'l opens \$4 MM headquarters on 17 acres in northwest Houston to engineer and manufacture heave control products.

Director-Research, Technology Development and Technical Services.

Friede Goldman gets \$143 MM order.

Friede Goldman Int'l Inc signed a \$143.2 million contract with **Rudgil SA**, a subsidiary of **Schahin Engenharia e Comercio Ltda** of Brazil, to build a Friede Goldman-designed Millennium SA. The DS-2 dynamically positioned semi can drill in 5,000 ft of water with a variable deck load of 3,500 LT. The rig will be constructed at **Friede Goldman Offshore-East** in Pascagoula, Miss, and is scheduled for delivery 23 months from the contract signing date, contingent on the completion of rig financing.

Global Marine GOM jackups work 1 year with no LTA.

Global Marine reports that its 9-rig Gulf of Mexico jackup fleet worked for a full year without a lost-time accident. The period ended 1 Feb, 1999. Approximately 1,100 Global Marine employees work offshore in the Gulf. The total number of LTA-free time worked exceeds 6.4 million manhours, the company said.



Glomar Adriatic IV

PRODUCTS

Software for project economics.

Digitran's PayZone software is a curriculum to train petroleum managers concerned with the economics of the project before development. **PayZone's** strong points, the company says, are its drilling and bit wear models, management of database, economical analyses of drilling engineering, inclusion of a wide variety of drilling problems and missions, and how to cut cost and increase drilling speed without accidents. Free demo download and more information available on Digitran's website at www.digitranhq.com.

Solid centralizer program. **Ray Oil Tool** has developed a program they tout as the "first ever" Solid Casing Centralizer Placement Program (patent pending). The company says the program includes surface, protective, production, drilling and production liners, and requires only basic well and casing information.

Multi-pin waterproof connectors.

Duraline calls its new electrical multi-pin waterproof connector systems ideal for drilling applications. The connectors feature a unique taper seal design which isolates each contact and creates a watertight seal, allowing mated connectors to be submersed in up to 3 ft of water. Heavy-duty contacts ensure reliable connections, and the ground contact is designed to mate first and break last. **Duraline**, 75 Hoffman Lane, Central Islip, New York 11722; 516-234-2002; fax, 516-234-2360; www.jbn-duraline.com.

Pioneer Clay Chiles passes on



Clay Chiles
(1946)

THE DRILLING INDUSTRY lost a true pioneer with the passing on 3 April, 1999, of **Clay Chiles**. If there ever was a dynasty in the drilling industry, the Chiles family have a strong claim on it, and Clay Chiles was its patriarch. Mr Chiles founded no less than 3 land and offshore drilling companies—**Chiles Drilling Co** in 1946, **Western Oceanics** in 1969, and **Chiles Offshore** in 1976. His son **William E Chiles** continues in the business. Mr Chiles was born in Itasca, Texas, in 1912. He received a bachelors degree in petroleum engineering from the **University of Oklahoma**. After graduation, he worked in the South Texas oilfield until joining the **US Navy** at the onset of World War II. He served 4 years in the Pacific Theatre and rose to lieutenant commander. In 1944, he married the former

Barbara Wayne Kirkland of Houston. The couple moved to Alice, Texas, where Mr Chiles founded his first drilling firm. He served as mayor of Alice from 1961-63. After selling that business, he launched **Western Oceanic**, a subsidiary of the **Western Co of North America**. He left **Western Oceanic** in 1976 and began **Chiles Offshore**, which grew to 13 rigs before being sold to **Noble Drilling Corp** in 1994. Mr Chiles was a Director of **IADC** and participated in many other industry and public pursuits and organizations.