Smith Training Schools will conduct its large rig crews or client classes. 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 Lafayette, La. The package also offers reasonable Chevron’s state-of-the-art classroom facilities, free demo download and more information available on Digitran’s website at www.digitranhq.com.

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.

Randy Smith, 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 its 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 Venture Capital, 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.

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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 Millenium 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.

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Pioneer Clay Chiles passes on

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 Oceaneics 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 bachelor’s 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.