

LESSONS FROM LIFE Number 14 Foot Tapping Chinese

When I started, full time work, at the age of 22, mum, had a vision for me. She wanted me, to marry a GOOD Greek girl, and for me to have enough money saved up to buy a house, when I got married. Nice, vision Mama. So after my first week, I proudly brought home \$86.50! (This was 1972 remember) -- I was RICH. Mum tried to take it from me. I protested, I was now a working class boy, I needed a PANASONIC Clock radio to wake me up every day... I blew the whole first weeks wages on that radio, and a couple of bell bottom trousers... I harassed Graham King, for a couple of "surfy" T shirts. I had arrived. I had the attire; I had my daily wake up call. FROM THEN on, however, mum would take ALL my money, give me \$20 to spend, and bank the rest.

At the age of 25, that's 1975, I saw a Greek Goddess one fine Sunday. She was 18, but looked 16. I was smitten... Badly. I fell in love in 10 seconds flat.... She was the one. Both of us came from very conservative Greek families. There was NO "try before you buy". I had to impress her father. FIRST. Then, I had to ask her father, for her "hand in marriage". She had to accept. Then, and only then, could I take her out on a date. ALL THAT, took from early December to the first week in January. Not bad, eh! 33 years later, I still haven't been able to slow down... I make my mind up and move Fast.

So, now the courtship began. Where to take my future child bride. Well, the best place in town, in 1976, was Michas at Balmoral Beach. BUT, you couldn't do it on \$20! By that time, my YEARLY salary, had risen to \$18,000 / per year. Hey that was a lot of money back then, I was NOW the Chief Chemist of Escon Chemicals My bank account was doing very well, thank you. My wallet however always looked forlorn. So I convinced mum, to let me keep, my pay packet. Michas it was. We had Bouillabaisse. My child bride to be was too nervous to eat with her hands. I had no problem, at all. We bonded, over the fish soup. She blushed, as only my wife can blush. I think that she appreciated that night, that she was going to marry a CHIEF CHEMIST who could show her the finer things of life.

I hit mum next week, for more money. "TI, PALI!?" ("What more!?" That was supposed to last you for a MONTH).

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George Papamanuel Celebrating 38 years in Polyurethanes

George and Tina Papamanuel began Era Polymers from a home office back in 1986. Prior to this, George's first position once finishing Industrial Chemistry at university was working for Escon Chemicals. Here he worked in a multitude of roles in production and R&D, before becoming their Chief Chemist. It was in this role that he first came into contact with polyurethanes, in this case focusing on the rigid and flexible foam business, as well as becoming their Automotive Projects Manager.



After a few years at Escon, he was ready for new challenges and took up a role at the former Uniroyal Chemicals, as their Australian Sales Manager for the Adiprene and Vibrathane prepolymer range. Although this was also a polyurethane business, this was a whole new world to his previous foam experience, suddenly George and his customers were trying to keep air out of their elastomer mixes, instead of putting air in. Little did he know then, that his love of polyurethane chemistry, and its immense diversity in applications and products was cemented.

2010 will bring up 38 continuous years which George has been involved in the polyurethane industry and achievements like that can't come about unless you have passion for your industry, your work and your customers. Anyone of the thousands of people who he has met in the polyurethane world over this time I'm sure will have no doubt of his passion, and commitment to Era Polymers and the polyurethane industry. If you are also one of the thousands he has met, rest assured also that there is a special place for you in George's Blackberry address book. Every person who has ever exchanged a card with him is in his address book, coupled with fond memories of the meeting, no matter how brief.

Era Polymers was a dream begun by George and Tina, and it's a dream which is coming true every day, thanks to the support of our global customers and friends. A strong part of George and Tina's dream was, and still is, that Era will be a business built on family values, which will always be family run, so that we really will be "people doing business with people".

From all of us at Era, congratulations George on your 60th birthday this August, and your 38 years in polyurethanes. Since you plan on never retiring, may you have 38 more!

ERA POLYMERS SPRAYFOAM AND COATING INSULATES WASTE TREATMENT PLANT DIGESTER TANK

Era Polymers assisted in the refurbishment of a 40 year old digester tank at a waste water treatment plant. The refurbishment included repairs to the internal metal work, pumps etc as well as replacing the insulated roof.

The digesters are maintained at 35°C for efficient anaerobic processing of sewage; to maintain this constant temperature **Era Polymers products were specified.**

Futura-Bond 415 metal primer was first applied after sand blasting the steel surface, then a 50mm layer of **Stepanfoam RS3011 48Kg/m³ sprayfoam** before finishing off with a 5mm coating of **Eraspray ESM900 elastomeric spray coating**. The refurbished digester is now set for another 20 years plus of operation!



Waste Water Treatment Plant



Now, I was stuck. Mum wasn't into Michas, EVERY WEEK. And Tina wasn't into the Spaghetti Factory, EVERY WEEK ... What to Do?

CHINESE was the answer. SO, Week 3, it was Chinese. Not any old Chinese, BUT, CHINA TOWN, Chinese -- Hey, I'm a Chief Chemist, right! Mum and I could afford THAT...surely!

So, it was an UPSTAIRS Chinese. The food is BETTER and CHEAPER, when you don't have to pay STREET RENTAL rates.

We sit down. I order, Chinese tea, and San Choy Bow (That's Lettuce Wrap... If you are American)

I'm feeling good. Tina let's me look into her GREEN eyes... All is well in the Universe.

Five minutes into the staring, I feel Tina's foot, on TOP, of my foot... "Boy, this is alright, I think. Tina isn't as innocent as she looks "

I smile, she smiles back... Then she starts tap, tap..., tapping my foot. I'm thinking, BOY, she's REALLY giving me a message...THEN IT DAWNED ON ME, she thought that my FOOT was a TABLE LEG, NOT, my foot.

So, above the table, she is serene, calm, composed. BELOW THE TABLE, she's paddling, AND TAPPING, like a duck, to keep her composure.

What to do? If, I pull my foot away, she will die of embarrassment, knowing it's a FOOT, not a TABLE.

So, I kept my foot there, FOR THE WHOLE MEAL, and she gently tap, tap, tapped, it.

By the time the Salt and Pepper Squids came out... I had lost all sensation in my foot. The pins and needles had started in my leg. By the time the Lychees and ice cream were ordered (Last of the Big Spenders, huh)... my whole leg had died. I dedicated that leg, somewhere during that meal, to the love of my life.

When we stood up, to go, I just about fell over. She had to hold me up, whilst I tried to shake my leg, back to life.

So, from then on, if it wasn't a weekly Chinese, it was Chestnut Puree and a cappuccino at the Bondi Patisserie.

And the other bit of good news was that by the time we got married in December 1976, mum had saved up \$18,000, for the deposit on our FIRST house. Thanks Mama.

A couple of years ago, we did go back to Balmoral. The place had changed hands a few times, there was NO bouillabaisse on the menu ...31 years had FLOWN, by, AND, one more time, Tina let me stare into her GREEN eyes. ...

So, our second date was at the Spaghetti Factory at the Rocks. TWO Dollars bought you a plate of soggy spaghetti, with THREE watery sauces. I didn't think that it was too bad --for \$2. My 18 year old, Child bride to be, gave me a mournful look, that said;

"You know my father wanted me to marry, if not a doctor, then DEFINITELY, a LAWYER."

All is well in the Universe!

"Global Reach, Family Values"

Era's Distributors - Introducing Arco & Chaitas this issue



ARNCO- CALIFORNIA

When did I first meet Larry Carapellotti? For the life of me, I can't remember. The Palm Pilot system that I used to keep such stuff, died years ago. My memory tells me that it was at least 14-16 years ago. (It was that long ago, that I remember I had hair!)

I do remember where it was however. It was in our, at the time, one and only conference room. And how did our first meeting go? Well, let me explain it this way... In life you meet lots (and in my case, lots, and lots, and lots) of people. Some you would rather not have met. Some are only "good weather" friends, i.e. friends that desert you, when the going gets tough.

And some you keep for life -----Larry and Cathy, are those sorts of people. You, God willing keep them forever, and grow old gracefully (or maybe UN gracefully) together, even though the Pacific Ocean separates you...

And business becomes incidental to the friendship — which is the way it should be!

www.arcoperformancepolymers.com



A.Z. CHAITAS- BUENOS AIRES

I think that I first received an email from Juan Sibemhart, the G.M. of Chaitas around September 2001.

He asked if we made prepolymer "stuff"... "We sure do", was my reply. We subsequently met at the K2001 Show in Dusseldorf in December 2001. We hit it off from the beginning and off we went, together, to introduce our products into Argentina. I was blessed enough to have met BOTH, Mr. Chaitas Snr., the founder of the company, and George Chaitas before they both passed away. Similarly I have been honored to have met with Sebastian and Raquel - the THIRD generation to run the business (They are ONE generation ahead of us!).

Great, great company. A very successful partnership indeed. The only downside is that somehow, Richard and Tony inherited Argentina, so I don't get to go there anymore. BUT, the last time I went, I did take my child bride to meet the Chaitas family, and we had an extraordinary memorable night... Dinner under the stars at a street restaurant and the street buskers who entertained us, were a couple doing the tango... Magical night, magical moment.

Thank you Chaitas, we well and truly, deserve each other.

www.chaitas.com.ar

PU China 2010 – Completely Sold Out

The largest dedicated polyurethane exhibition ever held for PU professionals from China and the Pan Pacific region including India! Many of the leading players from the world wide polyurethane industry either exhibited or attended this key event.

Another successful show for Era, for those of you who saw us at the show, thank you for taking the time to visit our stand it was a pleasure meeting you.

Thanks again for helping make the show a success; we look forward to working with you in the future.





Erapol 1K BLOCKED SERIES SINGLE COMPONENT ELASTOMERS IN 3 EASY STEPS

The **Erapol 1K Blocked Series** are single component blocked polyester polyurethanes available in a range of hardnesses. In order to process just:

1. HEAT → **2. POUR** → **3. CURE**

The Products in this range are:

- » Single component (No weighing)
- » Easy & Efficient Processing
- » Stable at room temperature
- » Cures with heat
- » Economical - Minimal Wastage
- » Cures with heat
- » Self Degassing

Erapol 1K Series Product Range Available:

1K20A	1K30A	1K40A	1K50A	1K55A	1K60A	1K80A	1K90A
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PROCESSING:

- » 1. **HEAT** material to approximately 70°C for melt down
- » 2. **POUR** product into a pre-heated metal mould
- » 3. **CURE** product at 130°C

The **1K Blocked Series** is ideal for general purpose polyurethane elastomer applications for e.g.:

- » Anti Vibration Mountings
- » Gaskets
- » Printing Rollers
- » Rollers
- » Seals

Era Polymers 1K Blocked Series do not contain Methylenedianiline (MDA).



(Hardnesses reflected in the product name)

Protective Coatings

Eraspray ESP950 is a polyurethane/polyurea hybrid lining which has been manufactured and supplied by Era Polymers for many applications for over 20 years. The products chemical backbone makes it an ideal protective lining, suitable for conditions ranging from complete outdoor exposure through to immersion in salt water.

Application to Concrete Sewerage Pipes:



Futrabond 415



Eraspray ESP950

After grit blasting the concrete to remove contaminants and provide a rough surface. The pipe was primed using a roller with **Futrabond 415**. This was then allowed to dry before spray applying **Eraspray ESP950** protective coating to approximately 4mm thickness. The pipe was put into its final position later that day.

Iranplast

23rd - 26th June 2010



Another successful show for **Era Polymers**. The **7th Iranplast**, a key exhibition for the polyurethane industry in the Middle East was held at the Tehran Permanent Fairground, Iran in June 2010. Tony Hatzikiariakos from **Era Polymers** joined our agents **Sitco** at the show to offer both Sales and Technical support.

Cold Castable Urethane Helps Power Up Queensland Economy

One of Queensland's major Power Stations, **Tarong North**, recently had a 3 day window to replace a critical seal in their cooling water re-circulation system. They needed a sealing product that could be applied easily to a metal substrate and would cure in the time window provided in order to produce a high performance water resistant seal. Other technologies such as rubber compound could not be considered given the very short notice period and the operating window provided.

Erapol CC5/65 was chosen as it had the right hardness for the application, a convenient 1:1 by weight mix ratio, and a tough

PTMEG polyether backbone to resist long term water exposure. The blue pigmented **Erapol CC5/65** was cast in place and allowed to cure. The sealant went into service at the end of day 3 and has performed admirably since, much to the satisfaction of the customer.



Meet the Era & Samos Team

MARICA GUBENKO SENIOR FOAM CHEMIST



Marica is one of our most versatile people. For many years she ran Physical Testing. Then she wanted NEW challenges, so we gave her "Foam Challenges". She does that equally well, and with aplomb.

She is Serbian by birth and inclination. For many years, she wanted us to have a SERBIAN customer.

Guess what, we now have one, and a half. She has bonded to Jerry, well. They exchange emails and phone calls in their native tongue. She is happy, Jerry is happy. Alex and I are definitely happy.

Marica has, this year, celebrated her 14th Era Birthday.

Many happy returns Marica, and many more to come!

SAM MOHAN KETTLE OPERATOR



Sam Mohan has been with us for 11 years. Sam is a kettle operator and makes his prepolymer batches to the highest quality.

Sam has always been quick and efficient in his work. He also enjoys the occasional political argument during our meal breaks.

When Sam is not spending time with his wife, Sughanthi and 2 children, Rochelle and Romilla; he is usually in the garden or out searching for a good bargain!

NORY ATIENZA BLENDER



Nory started 2 months after Sam. For 11 years Nory has produced the highest quality polyurethane curatives with precision and accuracy.

Nory, like Sam, has a green thumb and enjoys gardening. He also has a passion for carpentry and has even made a few shelves and work benches for the Dio factory.

Nory's wife's name is Erlinda and he has 2 beautiful children, Aaron and Nazarith.

Era goes round the World!



Anke from Polytec at the Port of Hamburg, Germany returning from Southampton, Great Britain on the Queen Mary 2, with her trusty Era bag!

NEW GENERAL MANAGER JOHN EVE

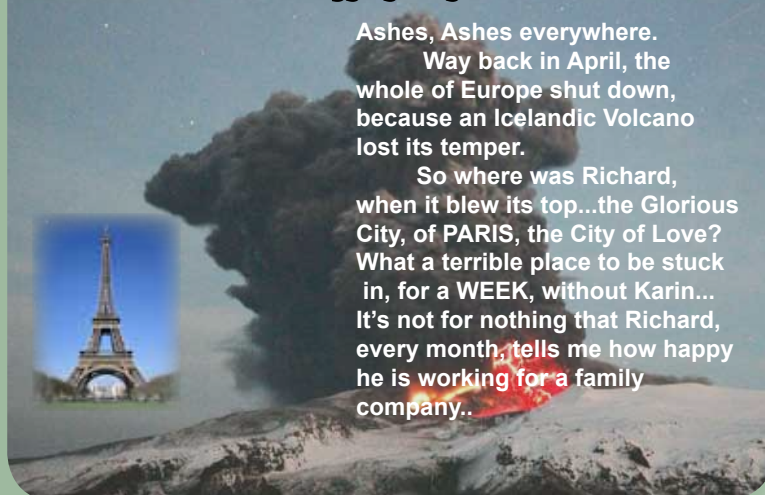
In the last Newsletter, we announced the retirement of Brian Hudson.

In THIS Newsletter, we are proud to announce the appointment of our **New General Manager**.

John, prior to joining Era, had a long, and illustrious career with BAYER. In fact, it was Rebecca Lee, from Bayer who introduced us... And you cannot get any higher recommendation, than one from Rebecca. The fact, that once upon a time, John used to be her boss, may have had something to do with it!

Please welcome John, to the Era family.

Iceland's Volcano Eyjafjallajokull



Ashes, Ashes everywhere. Way back in April, the whole of Europe shut down, because an Icelandic Volcano lost its temper. So where was Richard, when it blew its top...the Glorious City, of PARIS, the City of Love? What a terrible place to be stuck in, for a WEEK, without Karin... It's not for nothing that Richard, every month, tells me how happy he is working for a family company.



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