

aoshs Quarterly

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society
704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104

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Summer 2010

www.aoshs.org
overseasschools@aoshs.org

May Board Meeting Addresses Numerous Issues by... Donovan R. Walling

The timing of deadlines for the *AOSHS Quarterly* means that this issue is composed before the summer DoDDS reunion but reaches the membership after the reunion. Consequently, the next issue will be the one featuring a follow-up of reunion activities.

May has traditionally been the month when the AOSHS board of directors meets in Wichita at the archive. The board also meets face to face during the reunion. Otherwise, board meetings are conducted by conference call the rest of the year.

At the May meeting, the board tackled a number of issues, including the potential need to replace our two part-time office workers, both of whom just graduated from college. Sara Bowyer has worked tirelessly at the office for some time. Grant Seymour was hired to help out following the recent departure of Nancy Hampel, who had served as the archive director. Thus the board is continuing to deal with staffing issues.



Sara and Grant

The board took them to dinner to celebrate their graduation.

The board also dealt with maintenance issues at the archive, authorizing work to be done on the rear exterior wall, which needs to be resurfaced. Replacement of the steel rear door was still pending as of the meeting. A new small refrigerator was

purchased and installed, replacing an older, larger model that had broken down.

A number of financial issues were discussed, including the usual review of the AOSHS budget. AOSHS continues to enjoy sound financial health, thanks to contributions and dues. An annual fundraising effort is conducted each fall, as contributions are always needed to further the work of the society. Members are urged to give generously.

Work continues on the search for a permanent home for the memorial bricks, blocks, and pavers. Several possible sites are being explored.

The board also sought to form a search committee to seek out potential new board members. Service on the AOSHS board is entirely voluntary, and AOSHS members are encouraged to nominate themselves or others by contacting any current board member or the AOSHS office at:

overseasschools@aoshs.org

or by mail to:

AOSHS
704 West Douglas Avenue,
Wichita, KS 67203-6104. ✉

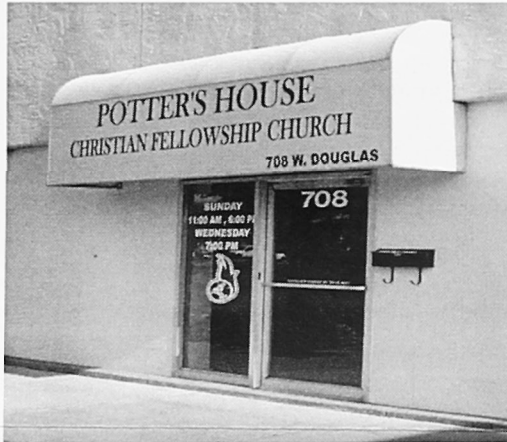


Recently Moved or Moving?

We don't want to lose touch. If you move, don't forget to send us your new contact information!

New Tenant

As many readers know, AOSHS owns two adjacent buildings in the historic Delano district of Wichita, Kansas. The larger of the two is occupied by the AOSHS office and archive. The other is rented. The previous tenant was a ceramics shop. The new tenant as of this spring is Potter's House, a Christian Fellowship Church. While the board was in Wichita for their May meeting, we also had the opportunity to meet the church's young minister and to see the renovated worship space, which has new signage, carpeting, and paint. ✍



Military Brat Finally Gets Diploma

In June the *Stars and Stripes* carried an article about military brat Larry Manson receiving his high school diploma from Johnson High School—48 years late. Seems that Manson, now a retired English professor, rotated back to the States before commencement at the now defunct Johnson Air Station in Tokyo in 1962, and his diploma never reached him.

In fact, the diploma got tucked away in a safe that later wound up neglected in a storage room at Yokota High School, where it was finally opened during a renovation. Systems administrator Mark Skelton found the diploma and tracked Manson down through the Johnson High School alumni association.

Manson, now 66, received the diploma in a ceremony at a Department of Defense Education Activity conference in Los Angeles in June. According to the news article, Manson commented, "It's amazing how things fall into place."

For AOSHS members and prospective members, it's another good example of why it pays to belong to AOSHS and the various DoDDS alumni associations. ✍

Surfin' Our Websites

AOSHS is dedicated to preserving the history and memorabilia of the kindergarten-through-grade-twelve education of an estimated four million American children who attended more than 900 American overseas schools over the past 150 years. Many of these schools are or were international, such as Benjamin Franklin International School in Barcelona, Spain. Founded in 1986, BFIS combines an authentic American education, a diverse student population, and the superb cultural opportunities that abound in Barcelona. A balance of one-third each, American, Spanish/Catalan, and other international students, makes up the 400-member student body. BFIS offers an American High School Diploma, an Advanced Placement International Diploma, and a Spanish High School Bachillerato. Find out more about this school at <http://www.bfischool.org>. ✍



AOSHS Puts You in the Driver's Seat by... Tom Drysdale

The work of AOSHS is guided by the society's members. The board of directors, other volunteers, and paid staff work for and serve all of the membership. We count on members to make suggestions and bring any concerns to the board's attention. Please stay in touch by talking to individual board members when you see them, by emailing (see the directory on page 11), or by writing to the office at AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203. ✍



Message from The Board

Message from the Board by... Donovan R. Walling

The May gathering of the AOSHS board consists of more than just a meeting. There's also time for working in the archive, sorting and organizing files, catching up on data management, and performing some routine maintenance—along with touching base with staff and any visitors who chance to come in, such as the meter reader who just happened to be a military brat, which gave us an opportunity to make a new friend and connection. Board members always are joined by some great volunteers each May, too. Below are some snapshots from this year's May gathering. Wouldn't **you** like to join us? You can. AOSHS is always looking for potential new board members and volunteers. Get in touch. ✍



Volunteer Lee Davis composes an article for the Quarterly. (Find it in this issue.)

Volunteer Les Burch goes through a box of memorabilia. ✍



AOSHS president Tina Calo hits the keys to bring us up to date.

Treasurer Rita Wells and vice president Gary Westhusin sort files in the back office.



Board member Joan Oak works on some memories at the computer.

Board secretary Kay Galloway peruses a couple of historic yearbooks from the archive's extensive collection.



The Archive at a Glance by... Lee Davis

Since 1989, over two thousand donations of school-related artifacts have been received and recorded using Past Perfect Museum Software. Over 350 packages of donations have been received since 2005 alone. The current storage area contains some 1,350 cubic feet of space, and is just about bursting. About 20% of these recent donations have been recorded and preserved using archival supplies, done by part-time office staff and volunteers.

The AOSHS office walls, as one enters our facility, are covered in an attractive display of plaques, flags, photos, artwork, and other memorabilia. Display cases blaze with colorful artifacts. Just inside the entrance to the archive stacks are six racks (twenty shelves) devoted entirely to hundreds of school yearbooks—Erinnerungen, "memories" in German—most from 1949 to the 1960s. Other artifacts are on loan from the AOSHS facility: In Wichita's Museum of World Treasures, for example, are: 1) a complete section of the Berlin Wall, 2) a medieval European suit of armor, and 3) a Nazi flag retrieved from the top of the Nürnberg stadium during the liberation of the city at the end of World War II. ✍

The AOSHS Memorial Program

Memorial Program

You may purchase a brick or paver in your own name, as a gift, in memory of a friend or loved one, or a school. Write to the Memorial Program address or the e-mail address below for the correct order card(s). You may include a 300-word biography and a photo along with the check when you submit your order. The selection of bricks/pavers appears below.

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AOSHS Memorial Program,
PO Box 4312 Scottsdale AZ 85261-4312
[Don't forget to indicate the honoree's name
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Memorial Program for Alumnae/Alumni

We have had many names added to our Those No Longer with Us paver, where friends or loved ones have sent a donation to remember a special person in their lives, but did not wish to purchase a brick or start a memorial fund.

Though this began as an educator remembrance, several of those recognized are alumni. Because of the increase in donations for this fund, we feel it appropriate to create a second paver specifically to recognize alumni. If friends wish to remember a deceased former student, send the honoree's name, school, and year of graduation (if appropriate), and it will be included in alphabetical order on the kiosk page, which can be viewed by going to www.aoshs.org/kiosk, then clicking on the Interactive Kiosk link, and following directions.

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Medium Granite Paver	8 x 8	15	5	75	\$500
Large Granite Paver	16 x 16	25	11	275	\$1000
Premium Granite Paver	24 x 24	35	17	595	\$2500

MEMORIAL FUNDS

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENTS (MAX. 400 WORDS PLEASE)

Dr. John Shurtleff

..... February 1940 - February 1, 2010

John was born in Concord, New Hampshire, and received his BA in education from Keene State College. Other degrees include a master's (1968) and a doctorate (1973) from the University of Southern California.

In 1965 John started teaching with DoDDS in the Azores and later transferred to Germany, where he was a teacher, an administrator, and a labor-management relations consultant.

Following retirement from DoDDS in 1992, he served as a senior lecturer at the University of Kiev, Ukraine, in the area of constitutional law reform. He worked as a contractor to the U.S. Army in Sarajevo on five occasions, Kosovo twice, one tour in Saudi Arabia, and two tours in Afghanistan.

John lost his battle with cancer on February 1, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Heidemarie Degen Shurtleff, their two daughters, and a granddaughter.

Doris 'Dode' Thorson

..... 1935 - May 13, 2010

Dode grew up in Spring Grove, Minnesota, where she attended grades K-12. She graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1958 with a BS in education and earned her MA in education from Michigan State University in 1973.

In the fall of 1960 she went to the Azores, beginning her wonderful 32-year career with DoDDS. She also taught in Newfoundland, Korea, Okinawa, and at several sites in Germany before entering administration. Dode was instrumental in formulating the Middle School Academy workshops in DoDDS-Germany.

In 1992 she retired as principal of Giessen Middle School and moved to Sun City West, Arizona. Dode joined the board

of AOSHS in 2002 and served as secretary for three years. She was an active, vibrant woman throughout her career and into retirement. She loved to entertain and did it graciously and with flair. Dode passed away on May 13, 2010, from complications following surgery.

Shirley Eben

.....June 24, 1928 - February 14, 2010

Shirley went to school in Ohio and graduated from Ohio University. She taught in San Jose, California, before joining DoDDS. Her overseas teaching assignments included Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, and Woodbridge, England. She passed away in Ipswich, England, and is buried in Dayton, Ohio.

Fred Nakagawa

.....1920 - December 5, 2008

Fred Nakagawa, a career educator with the DOD schools, died on December 5, 2008, in his native city of Seattle, Washington. He was 88 years old.

Fred began his DoDDS assignment in 1962 at Heidelberg, Germany. After two years he transferred to Japan, where he taught for 24 years. He was based in the Tokyo area and taught at Grant Heights, Tachikawa, and Yokota.

Fred was fluent in Japanese, which he learned as a child. Consequently, his extensive experiences, acquired during his years with the DOD schools, produced a rare understanding of the complex Japanese culture. Fred generously provided translations and shared these many experiences with students, parents, and countless fellow teachers. In addition, he was an activist in his long support of teachers' rights and the advancement of minority rights.

While teaching in Japan, Fred developed an innovative math program for his students by introducing the soroban (abacus), which was commonly used in Japanese schools. He received the distinction of being the first foreign teacher certified by a prestigious Japanese soroban organization. Fred's leisure time included not only travel and helping his many friends but also building model airplanes, sumo, and opera.

In 1988 Fred retired in Seattle, Washington to be near his extensive family.

Lenora Nagel

.....September 6, 1930 - February 21, 2010

Lenora was born in Lawton, North Dakota, to August and Augusta Nagel, the fourth of their four children. She spent several years in the Women's Air Corps, stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi. She graduated from Mayville State Teachers College in 1960 with a degree in elementary education and taught in North Dakota until joining DoDDS in 1961. She taught elementary grades and, after receiving a MA in special education from the University of North Dakota in 1973, also worked with LD students in the elementary grades.

During her 29-year career with DoDDS she taught in France, Germany, Iceland, England, Bermuda, Cuba, Japan, and Okinawa. She enjoyed each of the countries and traveled extensively, learning about the people and their cultures.

Lenora retired to Tampa to be close to her remaining family — but not to sit in a rocking chair. She became very active with several groups, including the National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Manhattan Avenue United Methodist Church in Tampa, and her Winward Lakes community. She maintained friendships with people with whom she had worked and with children she had taught.

Her mission was to touch hearts, and she did that.

JoAnne Gallagher Mitchell

.....1943 - 2010

JoAnne joined DoDDS in 1967 and retired in 1997. She worked as an elementary teacher, a reading improvement specialist, and a secondary drama instructor. Her assignments were in Turkey, England, Okinawa, Germany, and for the last 17 years of her DoDDS career, in Panama.

Theater was JoAnne's passion, both as a performer and as a director. She often was given awards for both. She was certified as a theater director through courses taken at Yale University Drama School and in recent years directed shows as the Henegar Center for the Arts in Florida. Just prior to her death, she directed shows at the Vicenza Army Base in Italy, where her husband Jerry Brees is assigned as entertainment director. Together JoAnne and Jerry produced, directed, staged, choreographed, and designed well over 200 shows in their life and theater partnership.

To know JoAnne was to love her. She leaves a void in the theater world and in the lives of many.

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elizabeth (Betty) Heater

.....1927 - 2009

Betty was born in Paulding, Ohio, November 22, 1927. She graduated from Bowling Green College in 1949 and received her master's degree in music therapy and psychology at Ohio University in Athens in 1957. She taught in Ohio and Florida before joining the DoDDS schools in 1965. Her first assignment was at Goose Bay High School with subsequent transfers to Wagner Junior High School in the Philippines and Baumholder High School in Germany. In 1970 Betty moved to Upper Heyford High School, where she stayed until her retirement in 1991.

Betty taught band, choir, music appreciation, psychology, humanities, and assorted subjects. Her band was in great demand for local parades. She took her choirs to numerous children's and retirement homes where they enjoyed performing. The many tributes given by former students indicate the lasting positive impression Betty made on them. She had learned to play all the instruments in the band, and her wry sense of humor made her beloved by the students and faculty who came into close contact with her.

Betty retired to Palm Harbor, Florida, in 1991 and enjoyed reading, watching sports of all sorts on TV, and playing bridge. She was involved in Delta Kappa Gamma, P.E.O., the Order of the Eastern Star, and church activities. In 2002 she developed cancer and was finishing her fourth round of chemo at the

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time of her death. She was a tough fighter for anything she believed in.

Jan Beck

..... 1944 - 2009

Jan was born on May 17, 1944, in Long Beach, California, and grew up in Palos Verdes Estates. She attended Oregon State University, where she obtained her teaching credential. She began her teaching career in Huntington Beach, California. From there she went to Hawaii and worked with Head Start. In 1969 she joined DoDDS and traveled the world while teaching. She began at Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa. The next stop was Germany, where she spent the remainder of her working years. During this time she obtained a master's degree and moved from the classroom to administration. Jan ended her career as an assistant principal at Würzburg Elementary School. She retired in 1999 and moved back to be with her family in southern California.

Jan loved traveling. She figured she had been to over 130 cities in more than thirty countries. She enjoyed traveling with her friends and family. After retiring she visited South America, cruised Tahiti and Alaska, and roamed all over the United States. Other activities included being on the board of the PVP American Association of University Women (AAUW) and being active in the Peninsula Seniors, where she especially enjoyed the exercise classes.

Dale Kverno

..... August 7, 1928 - October 25, 2009

Dale was born in Minnesota and did his college work there. He joined DoDDS in 1957 and taught sixth grade at Wheelus Air Base in Libya. From there he transferred to Hahn in Germany and later taught at Johnson in Japan, Newbury in England, and Spangdahlem and Ramstein in Germany. His last assignment was at Sembach Junior High School. He retired in Germany and is survived by his wife Anita.

Patricia (Pat/Patty) Mattina

..... March 4 (year unknown) - July 24, 2009

Pat was born in Buffalo, New York, in a year she wished forever to keep secret. After her father's death, her mother raised Pat and her three siblings, and so Pat was devoted to her mother and family. After graduating from college, Pat moved to southern California with her mother and brother Frank. Pat taught special needs children in Pasadena. From there she went into DoDDS, where she taught two years in Germany, two in Italy, and twenty-nine in Yokosuka, Japan, much of the time as a reading teacher. After retirement she moved back to Kelseyville, California, to be near her brother's family, making many trips east to Buffalo to visit her sister and other relatives.

Pat was an accomplished harpist, a dedicated teacher, and a loving, devoted friend. She spent long hours preparing and working with her students and never gave up on any of them. She was the first one there to help anyone in a crisis and was always a sympathetic friend. Once you were her friend you were always her friend. She kept in contact with all her friends and was the godmother to many of their children. She had a great curiosity and interest in the world and enjoyed

traveling and adapting foreign customs into her life. She never carried a camera but liked to blink her eyes and click a scene into her memory.

In retirement, her church and her family were an important part of her life, along with her DoDDS friends. In the past few years she was plagued by more and more serious health problems. She passed away July 25, 2009, in St. Helena Hospital.

Gwen Ross

..... June 10, 1915 - March 7, 2010

Gwen was born in Spokane, Washington, and received her undergraduate degree in music and education from Linfield College in Oregon. She taught high school music in Oregon and served with the Red Cross during World War II. She later earned a master's degree in social work from Smith College.

Gwen's first assignment with DoDDS was in Japan in 1961 as a guidance counselor in the Washington Heights housing area schools in downtown Tokyo and later at Tachikawa Air Base. While living in Japan, she traveled extensively in her little car with map in hand, crossing the Japanese Alps, staying in traditional Japanese ryokans, visiting the hot springs resorts, and eating only traditional Japanese food. On one adventure she climbed Mt. Fuji by the usual route and descended on another route, receiving extensive coverage in Japanese and American newspapers.

Later assignments were to Madrid (where she also was a part-time student at the Prado), Frankfurt, and finally as a district social worker in Heidelberg.

Gwen was an accomplished pianist, gourmet cook, and world traveler. Among many other places, she visited: Kabul, Tehran, China and the "stans" in Central Asia, as well as Eastern Europe several times during the Cold War. Hong Kong and Bangkok were her favorite destinations. Gwen's love of fine dining took her to all the Michelin three-star restaurants in France.

Gwen retired from DoDDS in 1987 and moved to Green Valley, Arizona, where she passed away in March.

RECENTLY CLOSED FUNDS

Peter Giorgi
Irma Updegraff
Paula Morlock

Granite Paver
Ceramic Paver
Brick &

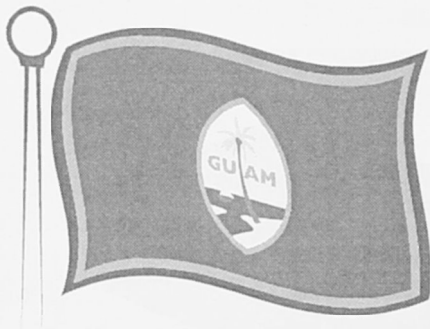


The Way We Were: Memories from ?????

Memories...Selected by Joan Oak

This issue features the continuation of Jean McDonald's account of teaching on Guam in 1954. Social issues on the island at that time are highlighted. All school locations had issues—social, economic, and logistic—in the early days, but the challenges of Guam are notable and worth revisiting. Kudos to all educators in all locations who faced many hurdles and came away with a positive realization of their contributions. We have had stories of The Way We Were from most parts of the world in the 1946-59, Volume I, in the Memories Index on the AOSHS website. Do take time to read them, as there is much interesting information. If you have an account of your beginning with overseas schools, please take time to record it and help us all to know The Way We Were.

As the weeks progressed, I began to notice signs of ill health among some of my students. Tuberculosis was rampant in those islands. It was estimated that about one-third of the population had T.B. and because of the hot humid climate it was very hard to cure. I called on an American doctor at the U.S. naval hospital and asked if I could bring my class in for chest x-rays and was given permission. Of the 52 children tested, six had T.B. I was alarmed at the over 10% ratio and after many weeks of persuasion was given permission through the Interior Department and at the expense of the U.S. Navy, to x-ray every child on the island. School buses were lined up and all 800 children were taken to the naval hospital and tested.



Our worst fears were confirmed, as over 10% proved true throughout the entire school population. With almost 90 children needing treatment, the government of Guam joined the effort and offered to give us a wing of the Guam Memorial Hospital.

When the children were hospitalized and their treatment began, the question of their education was

the next hurdle. I was busy setting up school programs and curriculum when my American doctor friend informed me that if I caught the disease I would not be allowed to re-enter the U.S. when my husband's tour ended, so we were able to staff the hospital school with Guamanian teacher volunteers.

Later that year we established a dental care program with the help, again, from the Navy. I had noticed many children with black, rotted teeth and adults with no knowledge of proper nutrition for their children's health-care needs. A dental clinic was established and the natives lined up for care from volunteer dentists.

Some problems were difficult, if not impossible, to correct because of economic or social habits long practiced from years of trying to survive during World War II. One was prostitution among very young Guamanian girls. Some of our 8th grade girls would leave school during lunch hour to go downtown to find an American sailor and earn a few dollars to take home to very poor families. The poorer the family, it seemed that there were more half-American children to be left behind. One was a little boy in my class, Robert. I managed, in the year that I had him, to get him to stay at his desk all day and not run in and out of the classroom. He was a completely wild little fellow who lived with his mother and six sisters in a wooden hut on stilts with not a stick of furniture.

Robert came to school one day with a horrible sore on his foot extending all the way to his knee. I carried him in to the office and his mother was called in. When he saw her, he held on to me so tightly that he tore my dress. A doctor was called. Everyone spoke in Guamanian and I finally learned that his mother had beaten his foot with a stick in order to drive out evil spirits—an age-old belief that still existed in the very backward, poorest Guamanian homes. I took Robert to the naval hospital for treatment and tried to adopt him but his mother would not consent. She told authorities that he, being the only son, would need to support her as soon as he was older. I have often thought of him.

When the school year ended, the governor of Guam had a lovely luncheon for the teachers. I was greatly thrilled and completely surprised when he announced that I had been chosen to receive the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award."

I think it was the best teaching year of my life, now that I look back after getting my degree and teaching credentials and teaching in modern, well-equipped schools for many years. ✍

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[NOTE: Effective August 1, 2009, the Individual Life Membership Program was discontinued. With the cost of operations continually on the rise, this seemed to be one of the economic moves to help us stay operational. Once we become life members, many of us forget that donations are still needed to help keep us afloat. {Those of us who are life members are, of course, grandfathered in - ALL existing life memberships are still in place. The program simply has been closed to *future*, new life memberships.}

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The American Overseas Schools Historical Society

A Kansas Nonprofit Corporation

This AOSHS *Quarterly* is published four times a year by the Society to enhance public understanding of the human effort, service, reward, and sacrifice in educating our American children and youth abroad.

AOSHS MEMBERSHIP is \$25.00 annually and includes four issues of the newsletter. To join, send dues to AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104. A membership application form is provided elsewhere in this newsletter for your convenience.

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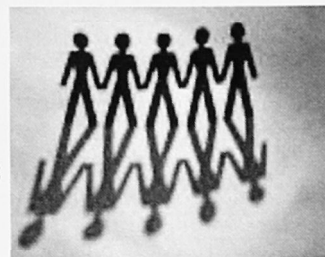
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