

The
**AMERICAN OVERSEAS
SCHOOLS HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, Inc.**

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THE AOSHS QUARTERLY

is published by The American Overseas Schools Historical Society Inc., and is designed to enhance public understanding of the human effort, service, reward, and sacrifice in educating American children and youth abroad. AOSHS membership is \$10.00 annually and includes four issues of The Quarterly published each February, May, August, and November. To subscribe, send \$10 to AOSHS, Box 777, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340.

Donations to help preserve the American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA) for posterity and historical research are appreciated.

Readers are encouraged to submit short, factual articles of human interest regarding their experiences overseas. Articles printed may or may not reflect the opinions of the AOSHS.

The AOSHS exists mainly for the preservation of

**The American Overseas
Schools Archives.**



The
**AOSHS
QUARTERLY**

*A Journal for All Past and Present American
Overseas Schools Personnel, Students, and Families*

The AOS Historical Society was incorporated, nonprofit, on July 20, 1995 and determined to be tax exempt from federal income tax as a 501 (c) (3) organization, on Feb. 23, 1996, by the IRS. Our first "official" fiscal year began on Jan. 1, 1996 and from an operational standpoint, the AOSHS has only been in existence slightly longer than a year and a half.

During the past year and a half, the Society, with the help of AOS Alumni Association Leaders, has made considerable progress meeting objectives - namely the preservation of The American Overseas Schools Archives, and the development of a membership approved plan of action to find a home for the archives, and a museum for school, educator, student, and alumni artifacts.

A primary purpose of the Quarterly is to contribute to the reuniting and bonding of AOS personnel, students and family. We think we have been somewhat successful in doing this, as the selection of authors and contributors of information in this and past issues attest.

In this issue we think readers will feel more "connected" after reading the articles written by alumni **Linda Wagner**-Homecoming 1997, **Eugene Moser**-Operation Footlocker, **Terry Jorgensen**-Top Gun, ex-overseas school psychologist **Michael Gerner**-The Characteristics of Internationally Mobile Adolescents, and ex-overseas schools teacher **Sue Turquand**-DoDDS-IX Reunion in San Antonio.

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Jim and Lois Shook, Donna Gillis, John and Doris Billington

ATTENTION

Members of Regions 2 and 5

With the approval of members at the Second Annual Meeting of Members in San Antonio, TX on July 9, 1997, the Board of Directors request that members in Region 2 - Washington, Oregon, and Nevada, and Region 5 - Arizona and New Mexico, nominate members in their respective regions to be elected/appointed as Regional Representatives for fiscal year January 1 through December 31, 1998.

Names of nominees should be sent to AOSHS, Box 777, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340, or by e-mail to <OverseasSchools@Juno.Com> by November 1, 1997.

The Board was saddened to learn of the passing of Gerald B. Rucker, Regional Representative for Region 2, and long time DoDDS school administrator in Europe and the Middle East, on June 25, 1997, due to natural causes.

In compliance with the AOSHS By-Laws and with approval of members at the above meeting, Ann Y. Bamberger, Representative for Region 5, was appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, beginning January 1, 1998.

AOSHS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- Region 1.** *APO, FPO - AP* - SCOTT DAVIS, - Kadena HS, PSC 80 Box 16482, APO AP 96367, Tel 634-1216/1712 and JEFF PELLATON, - Kubasaki HS, PSC 557 Box 455 FPO AP 96379-0455, Tel 645-3728/4876.
- Region 2.** *WA, OR, NV* - Vacant: On Recruitment
- Region 3.** *CA-MIDDLE/NORTHERN* - BETTY LOU ST. GEORGE, - 647 Bolen Dr, Paso Robles, CA 93446. Tel 805-238-0455.
- Region 4.** *CA-SOUTHERN* - GRANT & ELIZABETH SMITH, - 950 Mayo St, Los Angeles, CA 90042. Tel 213-258-7323.
- Region 5.** *AZ, NM* - Vacant: On Recruitment
- Region 6.** *WY, CO, KS, MO, OK* - TAWNIA KUMARAKULASINGAM, - E-102 Cornish Square, Lawrence, KS 66049. Tel 913-331-2055. <pkumar@kuhub.cc.ukans.edu>
- Region 7.** *TX, LA, MS* - JOY HARPER BRYANT, - 4000 Highland Dr, Denison, TX 75020. Tel 903-465-7271 /465-5410 <overcbrat@aol.com>
- Region 8.** *MN, WI, MI* - GORDON ROBERTSON, - 4007 Forest Rd, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Tel 612-925-6136.
- Region 9.** *IL, IN, OH, WV, MD, DC* - KERMIT LONG, - Box 106, Middlebourne, WV 26149. Tel 304-758-2801.
- Region 10.** *TN, KY, AL, GA* - RICHARD & ELISABETH COSS, - 1411 17th Ave, Columbus, GA 31901. Tel 706-327-6147. <ccosuno@juno.com>
- Region 11.** *FL* - SUNNY TAYLOR SCHWENTNER, - 425 S Chickasaw Trail #357, Orlando, FL 32825. Tel 407-249-4188 (work: 249-4310) <khsdragon@aol.com>
- Region 12.** *VA, NC, SC* - TINA CALO, - P.O. Box 15871, Surfside Beach, SC 29587. Tel 803-293-5835.
- Region 13.** *PA, NJ, NY, MA, NH, ME, CANADA* - FRANK & JOYCE VAHQVICH, - 345 Rothermel Blvd, Reading, PA 19605. Tel 610-929-2367.
- Region 14.** *APO, FPO - AE Northern Europe* - BILL KILTY, - 72 Westbourne Terrace, London W2 6QA, England. Also PSC 821, Box 119, FPO AE 09421 Civ. (44171) 723-2532 DSN: 226-3712/2925.
- Region 15.** *APO, FPO - AE Southern Europe-Germany / Mediterranean* - ROBERT LYKINS, - PSC 5, Box 214, APO AE 09050 Civ. 49-6122-8376. <Robert_Likens@ccmail.odedodea.edu>
- Region 16.** *NORTHERN EUROPE / ICELAND (North of Germany)* - RUTH VAN OOSTRUM, - Oude Tempellaan 6A, 3769 JB Soesterberg, The Netherlands. Tel 31-346-353428. For former American overseas schools students and educators.
- Region 17.** *SOUTHERN EUROPE / GERMANY, FRANCE, MEDITERRANEAN, AFRICA* - WERNER PRIGGE, - Mommensstrasse 51, D-10629 Berlin, Germany. <werner_prigge@ccmail.odedodea.edu> For former American overseas schools students and educators.

AOSHS PLANS and PROJECTIONS

Within this decade, the establishment of *The American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA)* has stirred the emotions of thousands of individuals who have been associated with American Education abroad. The Archives became a reality at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in November 1989. Soon world-wide interest and donations of memorabilia far exceeded the highest of expectations. By 1994, it was evident that due to the increasing workload, lack of space, and limited number of volunteers, the *AOSA* needed to be moved to a larger community. In December 1995, NAU temporarily moved the Archives to Goodyear, a suburb of Phoenix. On July 20, 1995, *The American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS)* was incorporated non-profit, and its members now own and operate the archives. On Feb. 23, 1996, charitable status was approved for the Society by the Internal Revenue Service.

We have made considerable progress, but decision wise, are at a most crucial time. The collective vision of overseas schools educators and students, retirees and alumni, is that there is an urgent need to establish an *American Overseas Schools Historical Park on American soil*.

A park, small to begin with, that will eventually include a building(s) for the existing archives, a museum, and a visitor's center. Memorials for schools, students, educators and alumni associations are also expected to be constructed on the grounds.

The membership possesses the enthusiasm, desire, and interest to establish a park that will **recognize and honor, service to country by overseas educators and students**, and benefit the population at large. **It is therefore imperative that we expeditiously form Committees and Subcommittees for Membership, Fund Raising, Communication and Coordination, Publicity, Architectural Design, and a Logo for the Historical Society.**

We are requesting your volunteer help to serve on a committee or two. Committee business will be conducted by mail or e-mail, and no travel or other expenses will be required. All we are asking is to put to work your knowledge of American education abroad and to benefit by your recommendations. Your involvement, large or small, will be recognized, and greatly appreciated for generations to come.

**Please mail the enclosed *Historical Park Endorsement* to us ASAP,
and if you think you can be of help, fill out and send the enclosed
Committee Member Application.**

Our Timelines, (subject to change) are:

- Oct. 1, 1997** Logo Committee, first selected and announced.
- Oct. 31, 1997** Volunteers selected to serve on various other committees and subcommittees. Committee size, three to seven members.
- Dec. 31, 1997** Determine the three most desirable locations for The Park. Site selection criteria includes the following: (a) - Interested university/college. (b) - Military base(s) nearby. (c) - Available volunteers - ex-students/educators. (d) - Good transportation. (e) - Cultural and athletic amenities.
- Summer 1998** **DoDDS X Reunion.** Board recommendation as to most desirable location for the park. Report from committees working on publicity, design, site plan preparation, cost, staffing, fund raising, and a myriad of other activities, which will need membership input, assistance, guidance, and approval.
- Summer 1999** **DoDDS XI Reunion.** Announce continued progress of committees and hopefully when the park is anticipated to be open to visitors.
- Summer 2000** **DoDDS XII Reunion.** Dedication of The American Overseas Schools Historical Park.

INFORMATION
FOR THOSE WHO ENDORSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AN AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL PARK,
AND THOSE WHO ALSO WANT TO SERVE
ON A HISTORICAL PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE

If you believe the establishment of an American Overseas Schools Historical Park is a good idea, please fill out the enclosed HISTORICAL PARK ENDORSEMENT FORM, and mail to the AOSHS. The endorsements of members, and others, will be of considerable help to The Society when we submit funding proposals to federal agencies, foundations, philanthropists, etc.

Our goal is to involve as many Society Members as possible in this important project. So, if you would like to volunteer some time, in your own home, to assist or serve on a Historical Park Planning Committee, or Sub-Committee, please also mail the enclosed HISTORICAL PARK COMMITTEE MEMBER APPLICATION FORM to the AOSHS. No travel will be involved.



ANNOUNCING COMPETITION FOR THE
DESIGN OF AN AOSHS LOGO

It is time for The American Overseas Schools Historical Society to have a **LOGO**. A logo that can be used on letterheads, clothing, caps and other items to identify our organization. *Our next step is to move from typing on paper to professionalism and quality. A logo is a must !*

We need immediate assistance from the membership - five members to serve on an ad-hoc, **Logo Competition and Selection Committee** for three months from Oct.1 through Dec. 31, 1997.

Interested members should submit the enclosed LOGO COMMITTEE APPLICATION FORM to AOSHS prior to September 15, 1997.

- First, second and third place winner(s) will be honored and receive proper recognition.
- The winning logo will become the sole property of the AOSHS.
- Beginning immediately, all members, overseas elementary and secondary school students, educators, school art departments, etc. who wish to enter the competition, must notify AOSHS prior to Oct.1, 1997, to receive logo design criteria and guidance for submitting entries.
- All logo entries must be postmarked to the AOSHS, by Dec.15, 1997.
- The Feb.1998 issue of The AOSHS QUARTERLY, will include an article about the design and development of the AOSHS LOGO.

LOGO COMPETITION TIMELINES

Sep. 15, 1997: Logo Selection Committee Applications due.

Oct. 1, 1997	Logo Selection Committee Announced	Dec. 15, 1997	Logo Design Entries Received
Oct. 1, 1997	Contestants Applications Received	Jan. 15, 1998	1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Logos Selected
Oct. 15, 1997	Logo Design Criteria Sent to Contestants	Feb. 1998:	Winner and Runners-up Announced

Note: *Thinking 100 years ahead, The AOSHS will recommend that the First American School on Mars be named after the winner(s) who designed the first AOSHS LOGO, way back towards the end of the 20th Century. By then the AOSHS will probably have changed its name to something like The American Solar System Schools Historical Society, or The American Outer Space Schools Historical Society, etc. Seriously, who would have thought in 1897, that the Americans in 1997 would have a controlled rover on the surface of Mars, sending back panoramic pictures and data regarding the composition of rocks?*



HOMEcoming 1997

The Bonn Alumni Association Pilgrimage



By Linda A. Wagner, President ASR/BAHS Alumni Association, Class of '75

Over Memorial Day Weekend 1997, more than 150 members of the American School on the Rhein / Bonn American High School Alumni Association returned to Germany for a five day reunion to mark the closing of their schools this year, as DoD supported facilities, and to celebrate their former lives in Bonn.

The American school system in Bonn was founded in 1953 to accommodate the growing diplomatic community serving the United States Embassy. One of the largest U.S. missions in the world, the embassy in Bonn, served as the diplomatic front line during the Cold War. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, this community has gradually decreased in size, as both the German and U.S. governments prepared for the relocation of the German Capitol to Berlin.

While the fall of the Berlin Wall is symbolic of the historic end of the Cold War, the closing of the American schools in Bonn symbolizes and celebrates the achievements of diplomacy. In a letter to the alumni association, **former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Robert M. Kimmitt** (Heidelberg and Baumholder student, 1960-1964) reminds us why the school has closed. He said, "It is because the 15 million Americans who have lived in Germany since World War II achieved their goal to help Germany and Europe unite in freedom and democracy. Because of that achievement, Bonn American School is closing, but schools based on its principles are now opening all over Eastern Germany and elsewhere in the former Warsaw Pact. In short, do shed a tear or two - one for understandable sadness over what has been lost, but one for incredible joy because of what is to come."

Although one of the smallest DoD supported schools, Bonn has held records in scholastic achievement and boasted championship teams in basketball, tennis and volleyball over the past 40 years. To celebrate this excellence, one of the original goals of the founders (**Linda A. Wagner**, Class of 1975 and **Janet Sharpe Byler**, Class of 1972) was realized at the Saturday evening event. While the goal was to present one \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior, membership contributions were so overwhelming, that **Ms. Wagner** presented FOUR \$1,000 scholarships that evening.

To further mark this auspicious occasion, a letter received from **President Bill Clinton** was read to the membership at the Saturday evening event. Letters from **former ambassadors Robert M. Kimmitt, Richard C. Holbrooke and Charles E. Redman**, were also read. In addition, **Charge d' Affaires a.i. J.D. Bindenagel** (who has been holding the top position at the U.S. Embassy in Germany since June 1996, while awaiting the announcement of the next ambassador) was the guest speaker for the evening.

Topping off the Saturday festivities were a 50/50 raffle and yearbook auction benefiting the American Overseas Schools Historical Society. Tickets for the raffle were sold for \$5 each (multiple sales were welcome!) ending with a total purse of \$1,200. The pot was split 50/50 between the AOSHS and one lucky winner. When the winning ticket was drawn, the lucky winner (**Wolfgang Hahne**, Class of 1972) came forward and promptly gave his winnings (\$600) to the Alumni Association as a gift. Following the raffle, five duplicate yearbooks were auctioned off for a total of \$400 which was also split between the alumni association and

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AOSHS. After the reunion, a check for \$800 was mailed to **Tom Drysdale**, President of AOSHS, as a contribution toward building the American Overseas Schools Museum, which will display the Bonn Schools Memorabilia.

The five day event concluded on Memorial Day. For fifteen former students it ended on a sobering note, as they gathered at the school to celebrate Memorial Day, by packing up all the trophies and memorabilia from the school, starting with the year the school opened, through the 80's (Items from the 90's were packed up after the school closed so that the current students would still be surrounded by some of the recent history of the school). In the few hours that it took them to pack, the finality of it all settled in. There would no longer be an American School on the Rhein. What was once a thriving microcosm of America in a small German town is now just a shell in which memories took place. But as one student put it, "...the memories will always be in my heart. These trophies and plaques hold some of the memories of my youth. As long as I know they have a safe home and that someday I will be able to see them again, the Bonn Crusaders haven't died, - they've just moved on to their next Crusade."

The membership of the Bonn Alumni Association wishes to thank the **American Overseas Schools Historical Society** for its efforts to record the history of American schools and students overseas. We are grateful that our memorabilia will have a home through which we can all share the glories and memories of our youth. We also wish to convey a special note of gratitude to the Society for their efforts in saving our Suit of Armor, affectionately known as "**Clarence the Crusader**", and ensuring that it will have a final home with all of our memorabilia.

Note: Linda A. Wagner is President and Co-Founder of The American School On The Rhein / Bonn American High School Alumni Association, and resides in Bradford Woods, PA. (Editor).

Two More DoD Schools Projected to Close

Information from **Robert McGurrin**, counselor Croughton Elementary School, (ex-principal Fontainebleau, France American School), is that this year's graduating Class of '97 will be the last one for Croughton High School. The school will remain open next year for the lower grade students, *but the high school section, grades 9-12, will be bussed to London Central High School at High Wycombe.* As Bob says, "The end of another era!"

From **Tina Egeler Heyden**, Augsburg Alumni Association and Class of '79: Augsburg American High School opened it's doors in 1955. In July of 1998, after the class of 1998 graduates, the doors, sadly, will be closing for good. The history of the U.S. forces in Augsburg is sealed. By the fall of 1998 the last of the 1200 soldiers and their families (2,100 people) of the 66th Military Group will be transferred to Darmstadt. At the height of the occupation, more than 30,000 Americans were stationed here on the River Lech.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

On page 54 of the June '97 issue of **RETIREMENT LIFE**, an excellent monthly magazine published by The National Association of Retired Federal Employees, was an article about the benefits of AOSHS membership, written by board member **Bruce Taft**. The article produced new members, letters and telephone calls, and spread word about the Society among NARFE's hundreds of thousands of members.

We are most appreciative of what NARFE has done for us, and are reciprocating by enclosing a **NARFE** Flyer, and Membership Application, in this issue of The Quarterly.

Many Society members already belong to NARFE and are active in local chapters.

INTERESTING COLLECTIONS IN THE ARCHIVES

The wide variety of collections in *The Archives*, by subject and type, has attracted the attention of those interested in human interest stories, history, research and writing, all related to the education of American children and youth abroad.

One of the most interesting collection, from the standpoint of research and scientific inquiry, is that donated by **Michael E. Gerner**, ex-overseas school psychologist who remains active consulting with overseas schools, expatriate communities, and international educator professional organizations. His collection contains many booklets, brochures, magazines, quarterlies, reports and research papers, mainly focusing on the transient life styles of American students and teachers overseas. The mobility aspect of student life overseas, and the resultant feelings of being from everywhere and nowhere, has lately captured the attention of many *Society* members. So for all of you who are interested in the subject, we are pleased to print the following article about how the largest known study of adolescents overseas came to be.

The Characteristics of Internationally Mobile Adolescents

By Michael E. Gerner

On a blustery and sunny day in 1989 I strolled into the offices of high school counselors **Mike Archbold** and **Mark Moselle** (then at Cairo American College, a K-12 American School) and lamented that no one had done a big study on the students of international schools, who can be variously called Third Culture Kids (TCK), Global Nomads (GN), or Internationally Mobile Children/Adolescents (IM). Mike and Mark looked at each other, they looked at me, and we all had the same immediate thought, "Why not us!" From those humble beginnings, when intentions loomed large and resources and time were non-existent, we completed the largest study of TCK/IMs to date with over 1,000 adolescents on three continents. Our team was completed by statistician Fred Perry of the American University in Cairo who helped us operationalize our hundreds of questions and later excitedly plow through the mounds of data.

This coming together produced the article, Gerner, M., Perry, F., Moselle, M. A., & Archbold, M. (1992). *Characteristics of Internationally Mobile Adolescents*. *Journal of School Psychology*, 30(2), 197-214, which remains the largest sample studied to date of internationally mobile adolescents at American schools overseas.

Make no mistake about it, every diary entry, newspaper article, letter "home", or research attempt, whether a show of hands in a high school class, to a more formal study or doctoral dissertation, helps us understand children and adolescents whose lives are influenced by living in "adopted" countries as temporary residents where the most "permanent" characteristic is change. No one kind of information is more valuable than the other - all are needed to try to understand these special children and adolescents who remain far more complex than any generalization about them. This article took the "show me in numbers" approach, but that is just one kind of glimpse, and all are needed to understand the very special circumstances of these children, our children and our students, abroad.

Hats off to Ruth Useem for being the first to call the world's attention to these kids. The Gerner et al. study is dedicated to her. The hope is that the frustration of finding research about these children will end. Now there seems to be more discussion, thinking about, and writing about TCKs, IMs, GNs, MKs (Missionary Kids), and MBs (Military Brats). Even the Gerner et al. study is not over. Gerner and Perry have re-analyzed the data, this time specifically seeing if there are any differences among adolescent boys and girls, because they weren't smart enough to make it a point to analyze whether there were gender differences the first time around. There are rather intriguing differences between the adolescent girls and boys in the study, and the manuscript, Gender Differences Among Internationally Mobile Adolescents, is currently being reviewed for publication. Stay tuned!

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Editor's Postscript: **Michael E. Gerner, Ph.D., P.C.**, is President, Consulting Psychologists, 3 North Leroux St., Suite 207, Flagstaff, AZ 86001 (520) 556-9531 <MGernerPsy@Aol.Com>. Consulting Psychologists is a professional association of psychologists who offer technical training and consultation for international schools, expatriate communities, and international professional organizations, on working effectively with internationally mobile and culturally/linguistically diverse children. The following is quoted from an abstract regarding the Gerner et al. study:

"Our findings support the impression that U.S. internationally mobile adolescents have more interest in travel and learning languages, and that they rate themselves more culturally accepting and more oriented to an international lifestyle in the future than their peers in the United States. However, not all characteristics suggested by exploratory research were supported for this group of U.S. adolescents who live overseas and internationally mobile adolescents from other countries. This study follows a call for research so that school psychologists, administrators, counselors, and teachers in U.S. schools overseas, and educators in the United States who work with these students upon their return, can have more information available about internationally mobile adolescents." Following is a quote from the conclusion of the article: *"This study demonstrates that U.S. IM adolescents differ consistently in their self-image ratings from adolescents in the United States. International living experience appears to be associated with the formation of a self-perception of cultural acceptance, interest in learning languages and in travel, and inclination to choose an international life style in the future. While causation cannot be proved from a study such as this, it is significant that the findings tend to support prior exploratory research."*

The Joyce Y. Holland Collection

A new collection in the archives is that of **Joyce Y. Holland** of Southern Pines, NC, who recently retired following 28 years of service as a teacher and counselor at Baumholder and Kaiserslautern High Schools in Germany. Although we have not had time yet to classify and record the hundreds of items in her collection, we feel you should know about it due to its historical significance. *It is the most comprehensive, documented collection of Overseas Education Association (OEA) memorabilia in The Archives.* For example, and to mention only a few, the contents include: Amended and updated copies of the OEA Constitution; Records of OEA Board of Directors Annual Meetings; OEA Washington and FEA Journals; OEA Washington, Germany, Atlantic, Pacific, Panama and Section 6 Schools publications; Stars and Stripes articles; Census and Demographic Surveys; Negotiated and Collective Bargaining Agreements; FRS Handbooks; DoDDS Consolidations-Reorganizations-Drawdown Negotiations and Legislation; Unfair Labor Practice filings; Transfers/Reassignments/Placements; Photographs (e.g. NEA/OEA Picket the White House, May 1986); etc. etc. Her collection also contains Baumholder and Kaiserslautern memorabilia of all kinds including curricula, plays, graduation programs, yearbooks, pins, mugs, promotional items, and photographs.

What makes **Joyce's** donation so special, is that *The DoDDS Component of the Archives* is now a more balanced and representative repository of overseas schools labor/management records, and of greater benefit to researchers and historians in the decades ahead. Although there are other collections in *The Archives*, such as that of **Cecil Driver** and **Sandra Vikstrom** that contain historically important OEA records and documents, the huge *Overseas Federation of Teachers (OFT)* collection of **Earnest Lehmann**, augmented by the collections of **Robert McGurrin**, **Malcolm Tronic**, **LLewellyn Lieber**, **John and Heidi-Marie Shurtleff** and others, is considerably larger, more comprehensive and complete. (See Vol. I, No. 1, Winter 1996 issue of *The Quarterly*). Importantly, **Joyce's** collection now adds more of a balance to the Overseas Schools Labor/Management Records we have on file.

OPERATION FOOTLOCKER

By Eugene P. Moser, Jr.

(Yokohama Elementary Alumnus 1953/54)

Two friends and I have a unique hobby. Not unique, strange. We ask total strangers to give us irreplaceable articles from their childhood. When they surrender the articles, which may have been in their possession for 20 or 40 years, we often ask them for money so that we can ask others to do the same. The amazing thing is that, not only do people not throw us out, they also mail us letters asking if they may give us prized possessions, and thanking us when we take them. How is this possible? It is possible because **Reta J. Nicholson**, **Mary E. Wertsch** and I are the founders of OPERATION FOOTLOCKER, the "Mobile Brat Monument", which is an attempt to make physical reality of the memories of growing up in the strange world of the Military Brat, a title which we proudly bear. We are the "Three Footlocketeers", generally shortened to "OpFoot". I am the gopher of the trio.

All three of us are similar in that our fathers were army officers and paratroopers. In addition, each of us is convinced that growing up as army brats made a decided impression on us. Other than that, we are vastly different in personality, except for a deep abiding affection for each other, and an overwhelming feeling of trust and comradeship, all the more amazing since we have spent a grand total of four days together in the flesh. Other contact is by mail, which is how OpFoot started.

The story began in January of 1996. Several brats discussed a possible monument in D.C. honoring the military brat. Then the idea of a mobile monument developed - one that should always be one step ahead of people looking for it. From there it was an easy step to the suggestion that the monument should be in the form of luggage, and that perhaps people would make contributions that reflected their brat childhood. Somebody suggested a footlocker.



The first attempt, participation in a Memorial Day celebration fizzled, but the second attempt at the National Guard Armory in Columbia, MO, Footlocker received its first donations. More items were received at Ft. Monroe's "Fourth at the Fort" Fourth of July celebration. Many people inspected the footlocker, remembered and talked. Since those first two events, OpFoot has received donations at other military events around the country, overseas schools alumni association reunions, Overseas Brats Gatherings, and made an appearance at the last DoDDS Reunion in San Antonio.

The contents of the footlocker seem normal - school shirts, a football jersey, a day camp patch, money, pictures, identification, commencement notices etc. But the shirts have names like BAUMHOLDER and MUNICH, the jersey has BERLIN on it, the day camp is TAIPEI, the money is foreign or Military Payment Certificates. Christmas trees in pictures have Tori Gate ornaments, identification is a dog tag, and the high school commencement notice asks the audience to stand for the national anthem.

Just like we had many destinations before the one that made us no longer a dependent brat, we hope the contents of FOOTLOCKER will have the same, and like us, a final destination - in this case The American Overseas Schools Archives. As the items increase and duplicate, they will be shipped to the archives for safe keeping and ultimate display in the American Overseas Schools Historical Park Museum.

If this sounds like fun, and you would like to participate, please contact <steamgene@aol.com> or <mewertsch@aol.com>, or call (757) 838-2501, or write:

Operation Footlocker,
9 Ward Drive,
Hampton, VA 23669.

TOP GUN

By Terrence D. "TD" Jorgensen, Sr.

(President, Nurnberg Alumni Association, Class of '62)

Name the favorite thing you've ever wanted to do in your life. Then attach a numerical value for "neat fun" to it.... and multiply that by 100! That is what it feels like to experience the ultimate high..... **being propelled off of a U.S Navy aircraft carrier!**

And unless you are a bona fide, certified, rated Naval Aviator, the Navy isn't going to let you launch. It's that simple. **However**, because the President (Commander-in-Chief) is one fortunate American to have one of our **Nurnberg Eagle Alumni** commanding one of his fleets - The Third Fleet, I was recently able to take advantage of a "Distinguished Visitors Cruise-at-Sea", during a large, joint-military-exercise called "Kernel Blitz", which involved 22,000 sailors and marines, 22 ships, and hundreds of various naval aircraft, all under the command of the Third Fleet Commander, none other than **Nurnberg High School alumnus, Vice Admiral Herb Brown**, class of '61.

During my past 37 years, I never met a **Nurnberg Eagle** who didn't just love this gentle, Texas-sense-of-humor, naval leader. He hasn't changed a bit since those youthful days at NHS. Herb allowed me to bring my father, George (WW-II Marine Corps), and long time friend from Michigan State University, Terry Carzoli and his father Al (WW-II Navy), to be flown by helicopter from Naval Air Station, North Island, to his command ship The USS Coronado. There we met Vice Admiral Tom Fargo, Fifth Fleet Commanding Officer, and dined that night in the Flag Mess with Marine Expeditionary Force Commander, Brigadier General Langston, Amphibious Carrier Group Commander, Rear Admiral Brewer, and their combined staffs.

Next was a helicopter ride out to the USS Nimitz, a floating small city of 6,000 sailors and marines. **Our moment of excitement, experienced by only a comparable few, came when we were thrown off the carrier Nimitz, via catapult**, a steam-driven device that throws you off the deck, going from a speed of zero to 140 mph in two and one half (2 1/2) seconds !!! **Now THAT'S the ride of a lifetime**, and culminated our trip, giving us plenty to talk about en route back to NAS North Island.

When April 15th comes around from now on, I shall always think of my taxpayer's dollars going to a very good place - supporting the sailors and marines of the US Naval Fleets. I was struck by the total teamwork, high-intensity, near-ballet- choreographed jobs performed by these young men and women.

The trip was a total and complete success, and I shall never be able to repay **Vice Admiral Herb Brown**, for the wonderful male, father-son bonding experienced, that we shall all carry to our graves. Perhaps we can do something special for **Herb** and his "**Favorite Sailor**" **Jill**, his wife, when they come to Colorado Springs, in June of 1999, for our next **Gathering of Eagles**. Y'all will love this great American, and fellow **Eagle**, when you see him in '99.

Note: *Terry Jorgensen was a dual rated (fixed and rotary wing) Army Pilot, Instrument Flight Examiner, Test Pilot and Maintenance Officer during the Vietnam War, and now lives in Marietta, GA. (Editor).*



AOSHS DATABASES

The two personnel databases maintained by John Brokaw and Helen Close, for past, present, and deceased educators, are serving valuable purposes. Many members and non-members have benefited by these constantly growing databases. Past or present overseas schools educators, who have not already done so, should send name (including maiden), address, telephone fax and e-mail, countries, grade levels, subjects, positions at schools and above school level offices where worked, and years at each location, to JOHN BROKAW 8727 Pemberton Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46260 <jBrokaw@aol.com> Fax (327) 228-9446.

Send information regarding deceased overseas schools educators such as obituaries, newspaper articles, memorial services, overseas schools service etc., to HELEN J. CLOSE (just retired) 227 BA-WOOD LANE, JANESVILLE, WI 53545.

David Grant, State of Texas Computer Programmer/Analyst in Austin, continues to make progress writing a program that will read through each collection (file) in the Archives(AOSA), find matches to key words and phrases, write out a line for each, and name the collection(s) where found. When finished, this program will save many hours of search time, as we look for a specific item or items in the hundreds of collections in The Archives.



REUNION NEWS

"Northern Kentucky Gathering"

*October 23-26, 1997 at the Quality Hotel Riverview
Covington, KY, across the Ohio River from Cincinnati.*

Joe Condrill, President and Founder, Overseas Brats sends this message:

**Join Us For Four Days At The Premier Event
For All Associated With Overseas Schools in 1997**

*A wonderful and FUN reunion experience for all who attended, taught or were
otherwise associated with American Overseas Schools!*

Registration before Oct. 1, \$135/person, \$205/couple. After Oct. 1, \$145/person, \$220/couple.

Includes: Four major meals, two breakfasts, snacks, Events Booklet, Directory of Participants,
Pictorial Newsletter-and much more!

Hotel Rates are very reasonable! From \$80/night for a room.

Get together, split the costs for a suite and save \$\$\$.

Call 1-800-228-5151 for reservations.

**Send the enclosed Registration form today to:
Overseas Brats, P.O. Box 29805, San Antonio, TX 78229**

Note: The Overseas Brats organization is a Corporate Member and strong supporter/contributor to the AOSHS. Members of at least 40 overseas schools alumni associations, and many ex-overseas schools educators are expected to attend this event, the *11th Overseas Brats Gathering*. At last year's *Gathering* in Breckenridge, CO., members of the AOSHS presented The Vision for an Overseas Schools Historical Park. In the months following, the concept of The Vision was improved considerably with the assistance of eight alumni ass'n leaders who attended the *Gathering*, and have named themselves The Visionaries (see Vol.II, No. 1). At the next *Gathering* in Covington, KY., the AOSHS will report on the progress of The Vision during a general session for all attendees. (Editor).

DoDDS-FL Reunion

The Langford Resort Hotel

Winter Park, Florida

October 31 - November 2, 1997

Isabel Orr, sends this message:

Planning for the DoDDS-FL reunion is underway. We hope you will be able to join us.

Registration Friday Oct. 31: \$5, Friday Social Hour \$12,

Saturday Golf \$30, Saturday Buffet Dinner \$25,

Sunday Breakfast Buffet \$12.

Make checks payable to: Isabel Orr (Mark for DoDDS-FL).

Mail checks to: Isabel Orr, 1507 Truewood Lane, Fern Park, FL 32730

"WHAT A GREAT TIME WE HAD"

or

**DoDDS-IX REUNION in SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
July 7-10, 1997****By Sue Turquand****(Ex-DoD and International Schools Teacher)**

The historic Menger Hotel in downtown San Antonio was the site of this year's DoDDS Reunion. **John and Barbara Williams**, Reunion Chairpersons, remarked that the Menger Hotel's ambiance and old world charm was perfect for all 400 + participants. The intimacy of the antique-studded lobby, the Texan Victorian charm and an atrium-style patio for outdoor dining complimented its close location to the Riverwalk and Alamo.

In the elegance of the spacious hospitality room, we of the DoDDS Family had a selection of special interest tables to choose: Videos from the National Association of Federal Employees, The American Overseas Schools Historical Society and Archives, great memorabilia scrapbooks, and sightseeing options. **Sue Turquand**, Tour and Texas BBQ Chairperson, provided for the popular city tour and an all-day trip to the LBJ Ranch to Fredericksburg, famous for its Nimitz Museum and German heritage.

At the opening evening cocktail party we were welcomed by the Deputy Mayor of San Antonio. Three huge islands of Mexican dips, salsas and chips, set in the ballroom provided a memorable prologue to the days ahead.

The second evening brought more memories as we paraded our dudes for a genuine Texas BBQ on the grounds of the former Lone Star Brewery. In a park-like setting, our picnic area was backdropped by a reflecting pond and four small museums. One, the Buckhorn Museum, houses the world's largest collection of horns and antlers. Under the tree-shaded patios we reminisced to four hours of DJ entertainment, from Texas Country to nostalgic favorites. The catered BBQ included four varieties of meat, salsa, beans and complimentary Long Horn beer on tap. We culminated the affair with three hours of country dancing led by San Antonio's finest and most talented pair of dance instructors. Even the most inhibited were coaxed onto the patio to learn the La Macarena, Cotton-Eye Joe, Texas Two Step, and Chicken Dance. The shuttle bus back to the hotel ended the star-filled evening with "Deep in the Heart of Texas".

The handsome ballroom was once again the setting for our farewell banquet featuring DoDDS entertainment at its finest. Talented **Pam Redman** created the script and wrote all the lyrics to a medley of parody songs and TV shows which recalled our years of working and living with DoDDS.

In his curly, blond wig, **John Williams** brought down the house with "Don't Cry for Me, CPO".

John Brokaw, Jim Lenz and Master of Ceremonies **Glynn Turquand** parodied Johnny Carson and "Oh, Yes, I Remember It Well." **Sue Lenz** recalled the promises-gone-astray made to incoming, newly hired, stateside teachers. Other members of the entertainment, to include the be-wigged "Hello Dollies" were **Frank Vahovich** and **Mary Swinehart** who sang "Let Me Entertain You." **Pam Redman**, piano accompanist, led over 400 party-goers in the finale, "There's No People Like DoDDS People."

Still aglow from the previous evening's entertainment, a long and lingering sit-down, full breakfast, was the perfect conclusion to DoDDS-IX. Over plates of Danish pastries and coffee re-fills, we exchanged last-minute addresses and made promises to rekindle newly-found friendships at next summer's DoDDS-X, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A special thanks goes to **Barbara and John Williams** who did a superb job of coordinating a year's worth of faxes, e-mail, phone messages, reservations and cancellations, into a beautifully-executed reunion.

Note: *Susan Louise (Canby) Turquand taught at the Stuttgart International School in Germany, and the DoD School-Green Park, in Tokyo. She now resides in Laguna Niguel, CA with her husband Glynn. Her grandfather, General Canby, helped settle the old-new Western United States. (Editor).*

DoDDS-X REUNION MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**Early August 1998**

Full information will be in the November, 1997 issue of The Quarterly. In the mean time contact: **WALTER E. PEIK**
597 MAIN ST. SOUTH, HUTCHINSON, MN 55350-2901 (302) 587-5380.