

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

An Arizona Non-Profit Corporation

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VOLUME IV, No. 2, SPRING 1999

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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
QUARTERLY**

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



This is the last Quarterly members will receive prior to The Fourth Annual Meeting of Members on July 6, 1999 in the U.S. Grant Hotel in downtown San Diego. Members will be requested to ratify actions of the board of trustees during the past year, elect or appoint a president and a secretary/treasurer, and vote on a recommended plan of action for the following year. Members who are unable to attend the meeting are encouraged to vote by proxy executed in writing by the member or by his/her duly authorized attorney-in-fact. The members actually present at any regularly called meeting of the members of the Society, constitute a quorum for all purposes. The Fourth Annual Meeting of Regional Representatives will take place following the meeting of members.

In this issue of the Quarterly, three full pages are devoted to architectural drawings of the AOS Historical Park in Wichita, KS. This is for the benefit of members unable to attend the annual meeting and observe a three-dimensional model of Phase One and a Master Plan proposed for the entire park. Phase One—the Visitor's Center—will house existing archives and museum exhibits prior to the construction of archive and museum buildings in later phases. In time, an auditorium, two plazas, and a courtyard will finish the project. Phase One is clearly defined and reflects, to the greatest extent possible, the recommendations of members. Phases Two through Four are less clearly defined and will again involve recommendations from members and a lot of hard work by the Volunteer Architectural Committee.

It has been three years since the first annual meeting of members in Washington, D.C. on August 3, 1996. At that time there were slightly more than 200 charter members. Each year since then the membership has more than doubled. As of May 1, there were 1,109 members, and 1,200 or more are expected by mid-summer.



AOSHS POLICY

The Trustees realize that to obtain all objectives: (1) the strong support of the membership is absolutely essential and must be recognized, (2) that although the Society greatly appreciates and recognizes all donations and gifts, it will not recommend nor will it encourage its members to obtain the services or products of any company, and (3) the Society will not discriminate on the basis of lifestyle, race, sex, religion or political affiliation.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY DATABASES



The AOSHS has three personnel databases maintained by: JOHN BROKAW, TINA CALO, and MARGIE PRATER KUGLER. If you have been, or are an overseas educator, please send your name (including maiden); mailing address; telephone and fax numbers; e-mail address; countries, schools, and above school level offices where worked; years at each location, including grade levels, subjects, and positions to JOHN. If you have been, or are an overseas student,

JOHN BROKAW
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please send your name, (including maiden); mailing address; telephone and fax numbers; e-mail address; countries, schools, and grade levels attended to MARGIE. All educators and alumni are encouraged to send information regarding deceased educators to TINA.

TINA CALO
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Surfside Beach SC 29587
(843) 293-5835
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AOSHS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

REGION 1 PACIFIC: DoD and INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

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GUAM - HAWAII - KOREA, and OTHER PACIFIC RIM SCHOOLS

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- GRANT & ELIZABETH SMITH 950 Mayo St, Los Angeles, CA 90042

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- GORDON ROBERTSON 4007 Forest Rd, St Louis Park, MN 55416

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REGION 10 ILLINOIS, IOWA, INDIANA, MICHIGAN and OHIO

Open—On recruitment

REGION 11 ALABAMA, GEORGIA, KENTUCKY and TENNESSEE

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<Cossuno@juno.com>

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REGION 13 FLORIDA

- SUNNY SCHWENTNER 901 American Rose Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32825

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- KERMIT LONG Box 106, Middlebourne, WV 26149

(304) 758-2801

REGION 16 NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, and PENNSYLVANIA

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(610) 929-2367

REGION 17 CONNECTICUT, MAINE, MASS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT and EASTERN CANADA

Open—On recruitment

REGION 18 NORTHERN EUROPE: DoD and INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

ICELAND, UNITED KINGDOM, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS and NORWAY

- BILL KILTY 72 Westbourne Ter., London W2 6QA, England Also PSC 821, Box 119, FPO AE 09421 Tel 44-171-723-2552
- RUTH VAN OOSTRUM Oude Tempellaan 6A, 3769 JB Soesterberg, The Netherlands Tel 31-346-353428

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AOSHS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Drysdale, President and Editor of *The Quarterly*; Lee Davis, First Vice President; Lucille Hansen, Second Vice President; Norma Drysdale, Secretary Treasurer; Additional Board Members: Ann Bamberger, Donna Gillis, Susan Schubert, and Bruce Taft

ANNOUNCEMENTS

⇒ The Fourth Annual Meeting of Members will begin at 9:30 a.m., July 6, 1999, in the U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego during the DoDDS XI Reunion, July 4-7, 1999. Members present will constitute a quorum. Three-year terms for the President and Secretary/Treasurer will expire on December 31, 1999. Nominations of Arizona members for these positions should be sent to AOSHS by June 15, 1999. Tom and Norma Drysdale have been nominated. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

⇒ Tawnya Kumarakulasingham, University of Kansas doctoral candidate, will soon resign as AOSHS Region 7 Representative (KS, MO, NE, and OK). She has served in this position since AOSHS established geographical regions, and will be greatly missed. She will complete an internship in psychology next year at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District in Houston, TX, directed by Dr. Karen A. Young, a DoDDS High School graduate. Tawnya plans to graduate in 2001 from the U of K with a Ph.D. in school psychology. Nominations for her replacement should be sent to AOSHS by June 15, 1999.

⇒ Jan Johnson—803 South High Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401—has been nominated to serve as AOSHS Region 10 Representative.

⇒ Members of new Regions 12 and 17 are encouraged to nominate members in their regions to serve as Regional Representatives. Send names of nominees to AOSHS by June 15, 1999.

⇒ Response has been excellent to requests in previous issues of *The Quarterly* for the names and addresses of those who have completed most or all of their K-12 schooling overseas. These students and alumni will be given the opportunity to participate in a research study comparing them with their stateside counterparts. We encourage members and non-members to submit the names of students and alumni who qualify. We have defined "most" to mean at least six years K-12, or four years K-6, or four years 7-12. There are many who have had all or most of their K-12 schooling overseas that we have not heard from. We will keep searching until we have a large database of these students and alumni before beginning the study.

⇒ The *LAST CHANCE* announcement to have your 1946-1956 experiences published in *THE EARLY DAYS BOOK* produced several more historically important and interesting stories (see pg. 3 of Fall '98 issue of *The Quarterly*). These stories will be added to the 48 we now have. The book may have a spiral binding so that other stories can be added after publication. Our apologies to Marie O. Espinoza for neglecting to list her among the other 47 authors in the Fall '98 issue of *The Quarterly*.

⇒ To date, we have attempted to send Thank You Letters to new members and to those who have renewed their annual memberships. But that task will regretfully have to be dropped in the near future due to a steadily increasing office workload. Now, we hope that when your check payments appear on your bank statements, you will be reminded that your membership and continuing support are greatly appreciated.

⇒ The AOS Historical Society now has members in all states, territories, and nine foreign countries. By geographical regions, California has always led with the highest number, closely followed by current overseas educators in the Pacific and Europe. At a recent DoD Schools Educators Day in Okinawa, AOSHS Regional Representatives Scott Davis and Jeff Pellaton signed up 14 new members, enough for current overseas educators to now be the largest geographical group of members in the Society. Since the Society began a drive for charter members in 1996, the membership has more than doubled each year. Members now exceed 1,100 and 1,200 are anticipated by the annual meeting in July 1999.

⇒ The latest info as to recent assignments of DoDDS District Superintendents, GS-14, for SY 1999-2000 is:

Dr. Archie Bates—Kaiserslautern District (Now Ass't Supt., Okinawa District)

Mr. Michael Diekmann—Japan District (Now Ass't Supt., Heidelberg District)

Dr. Ronald McIntire—Brussels District (Past Supt., Wichita, KS Public Schools)

Dr. Scarlett Rehrig—United Kingdom District (Now Ass't Supt., Japan District)

⇒ The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) has announced plans to reorganize into two systems with a Deputy Director over each—DoD Dependents Schools Overseas and DoD Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools in the United States and U.S. Territories. The DoDDS Deputy will be in Germany and supervise area and district superintendents in Europe and the Pacific. The Domestic Dependents Deputy will be in the DoDEA office in Arlington, VA. On March 17, Dr. Lillian Gonzales, Director DoDEA announced that she will resign on September 11, 1999.

⇒ The American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) is pleased to announce that it has received an in-kind grant from a global direct marketer of name brand computers, hardware and software. The grant will be used to standardize computer hardware and software used in the administration, promotion and marketing of the AOSHS and the American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA). Additionally the equipment will be used to facilitate communications between the various administrative and marketing committees of the AOSHS and AOSA. Further details on this grant and its application will be provided in the August 1999 issue of *The Quarterly*.

AOS Historical Park Update

It was announced in the Winter 1999 issue of *The Quarterly* that the Wichita architectural and engineering firm of Schafer Johnson Cox Frey & Associates (SJCF) had been selected to work with the *Society* during the pre-fundraising phase of the Park. This phase will end on July 6, 1999 during The Annual Meeting of Members in San Diego, at which time the board will present a coordinated Fundraising Plan of Action, drafted by the board and the City of Wichita. If the members approve, fundraising for Phase One—the Visitors Center, will begin (see drawings on pages 5–7). The Visitors Center will temporarily house existing archives and museum exhibits. Later, adjoining buildings will permanently house the archives and a museum.

In the Fall '98 issue of *The Quarterly* a questionnaire, prepared by SJCF, was included for members to make recommendations regarding the design and use of the Park. Hundreds of suggestions were received and turned over to *The AOSHS Architectural Committee*, Chaired by Berlin High School alumna Diana Jean Kempton, IIDA. The standing committee members are **alumni:** Pat Riley Blackwell, Joy Harper Bryant, Linda Yetter Irvine, Irene Keller Phillips, Dr. John D. Walker, and **educators:** Leslie A. Burch, Dr. James R. Louwers, Walter E. Peik, and Linda Hiebert Sekiguchi. The remarkable work accomplished by this committee is now in the hands of J. Samuel Frey, AIA and associates at SJCF. Diana's Letter of Appreciation to all members who submitted suggestions, follows:

Member Survey Has Direct Results

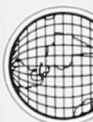
By Diana Jean Kempton, IIDA
Architectural Committee Chair

Heartfelt thanks go out to all AOSHS members who responded to the Board's survey regarding features you would most like to see realized in the AOSHS Historical Park in Wichita. Because of the excellent response and careful consideration you gave to this project, the architectural firm has a better idea of how we envision this project.

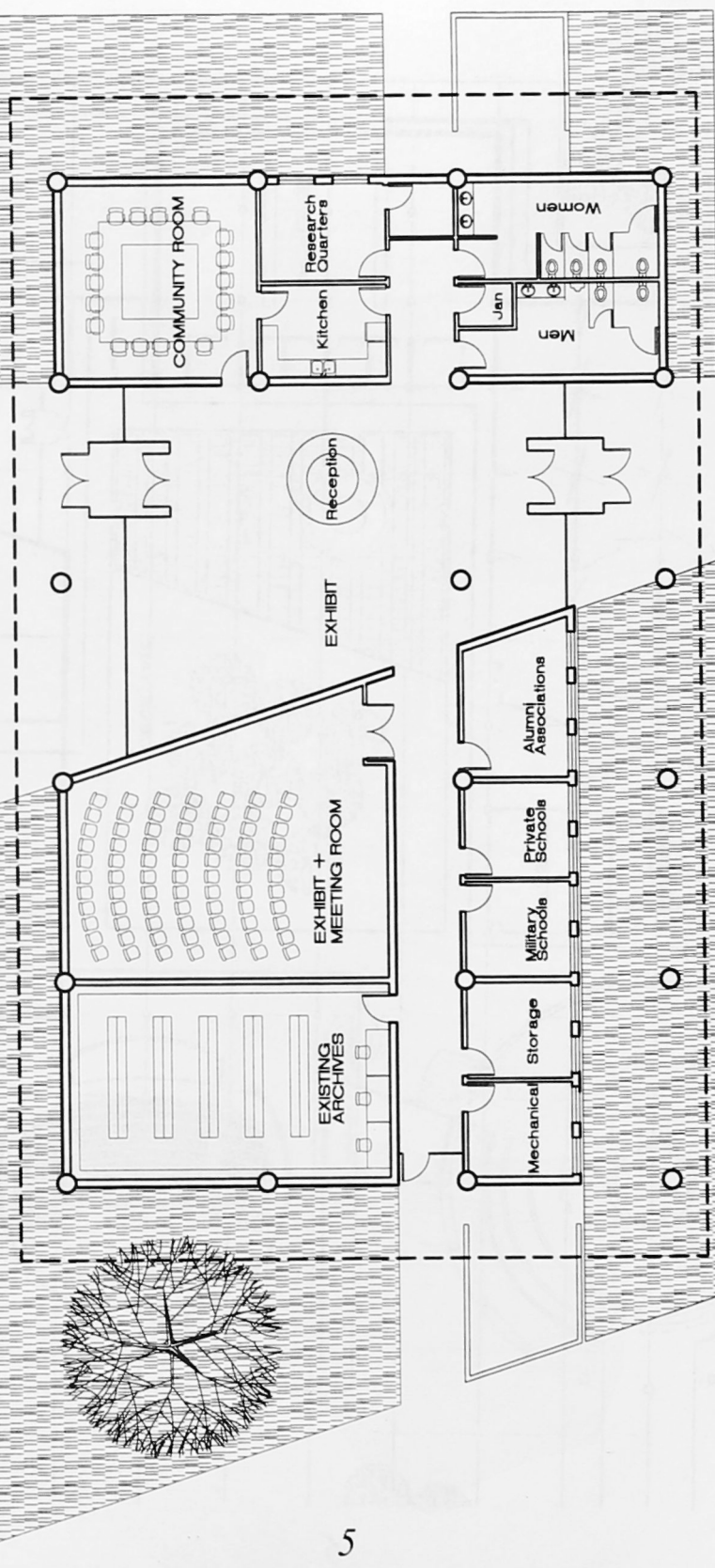
From the responses you submitted, a list was generated and sent to members of the AOSHS Architectural Committee, which then prioritized the features based on their relevance, feasibility, and interest to both the public who will view the museum/park and members who will use the archives. From this list a spreadsheet was prepared to submit to the architects, which listed those features deemed either necessary, very important, or desired, along with details of each feature and the suggested phase of the project for implementation.

The preliminary submissions reflect those items important for the architects and engineers to consider in designing our facility. This project is member-driven, and your input during the design phase will make it a showplace we can be proud of. Future submissions will address our members' ideas for specific displays and special events anticipated for the site. Considering the ideas already submitted by our members, we anticipate no difficulty in coming up with enough exhibits to fill the museum and then some! Offers to donate memorabilia, slides, photos, documents, volunteer time and—yes!—funds continue to come in, and we deeply appreciate the enthusiasm and support that you, our members, have for the AOSHS Historical Park.

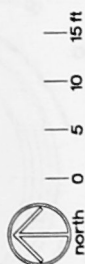
FLAG PLAZA



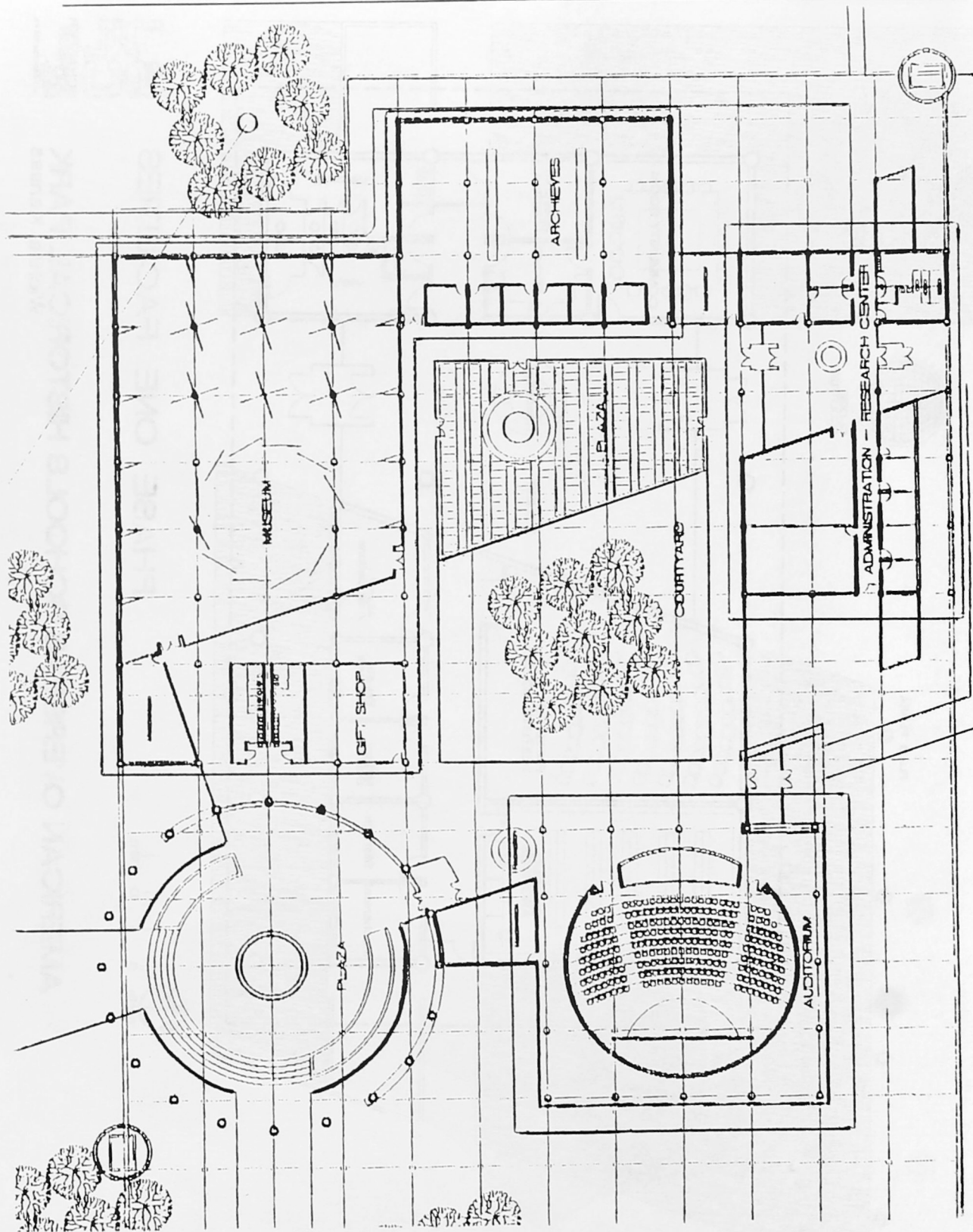
GLOBE
SCULPTURE



PHASE ONE FACILITIES



AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL PARK
Wichita, Kansas



Indian Center Museum
Mid-America All-Indian Center

Seneca Street

Stackman Drive

Shared Parking with
Wichita Art Museum

Overhead Power Line

Shared Parking with
Wichita Art Museum
on Stackman Drive

Vichita Water Department

Gradual slope

Lamp Posts

Walking / jogging path 20' above the river

ARKANSAS RIVER

SITE DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL PARK
Wichita, Kansas

SCHWARTZ
SCOTT
COY
AND ASSOCIATES

THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOL OF ROME

The AOS Archives contain the histories of many overseas schools operated primarily for the K-12 education of American military and civilian dependents. A considerable amount of information regarding one of the most interesting and successful private international schools abroad is contained in the AOS Archives File of Dr. Larry W. Dougherty, Headmaster of The American Overseas School of Rome (AOSR), Via Cassia 811, 00189 Rome, Italy.

Founded in 1946 by a group of English-speaking families, the school, set back from the Via Cassia, overlooks an unspoiled green valley where flocks of sheep graze. Four main buildings, set amidst Roman pines and flowering shrubs, house the classrooms of the elementary, middle, and high schools, a cafeteria-auditorium, and two libraries. A modern gymnasium, playing fields, and tennis courts complement the school's academic facilities. A spectacularly-sited theater completes the campus.

The combination of an American school, located in the European city, long the capital of the civilized world, is an excellent start to making students feel at home with international life. The most striking feature of the school is the student body. "Walking into a second grade classroom is like walking into the UN," one teacher commented. That's true of all classes, kindergarten through 12th grade: Forty-five nationalities are represented at AOSR, with Americans the most numerous, and Italians a substantial second.

The "Rome" in the school's full name is no less important than the "American." Latin comes alive when students stroll down the very streets where it was once spoken. Musically, the school also benefits from its location. An "Opera on Site" elective course for middle school students acquaints them with music and librettos, and takes them backstage to live performances at the Rome Opera. Art courses profit at every level from Italy's abundance, and Rome itself becomes the object of study for high school students studying art history.

Because many of the school's students come from faraway places, they are especially helpful to those experiencing an international relocation for the first time. A recent poll showed that most graduating seniors consider friendship to be one of their greatest non-academic achievements.

In addition to a regular physical education program and extracurricular activities, varsity teams play in the American Schools in Italy League and against other English-speaking schools in Italy and in the Greater Rome League.

Relations with Rome's past are perhaps the most educational of all. One student said, "First we learn about it in history, then we go out and see it." For example, archeology field trips include week-long digs where students assist excavations at a medieval fortress. Students studying the Renaissance participate in a week-long trip to Florence, and fifth graders, studying the late Roman Empire and Barbarian Invasions, go to Ravenna. Other Italian trips include Verona, Mantua, and Venice.

International field trips integrate the curriculum with visits to Crete, Athens, and the Peloponnesus. Students are not only acquainted with the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey," most can distinguish a Mycenaean pot from a Minoan. Other trips take in cities such as Moscow, London, Athens, Paris, and other European capitals, and drama students travel to Stratford and Vienna.

A very historically important item in Dr. Dougherty's AOS Archives File is the bound collection of autobiographies of 117 alumni and faculty, collected by **Dr. Allan Ceen** and **Sharon Kristjanson** for the 50th Reunion of the American Overseas School of Rome. One paragraph in the introduction by **Sharon Kristjanson** reads: "The stories in this book are engaging. Some are humorous and some are reflective. Some people have sought adventure while others have sought stability. Yet in spite of the different paths that each of us has chosen, these stories reveal an unusual richness of experience that has continued beyond the years at AOSR, even for those touched by tragedy. The one underlying thread is that we have all been profoundly affected by our time in Rome, however short or long that time may have been."

Excerpts from:
Flight From the Philippines
By Marcia F. Howard

When Mt. Pinatubo blew on Wednesday morning, 12 June 1991, my husband and I were among the lucky few. We were safe at a sunny beach in the province of Pangasinan, Republic of the Philippines. Others were not so lucky. The preceding Monday they had dutifully followed military orders and evacuated in a convoy going from Clark Air Base southwest to the Subic Bay Naval Base, taking with them, candles, toilet paper, passports, medications, flashlights, clothing for three days, and various other items on checklists we had been issued, and joining a pandemonium of animals, heat, children, endless waiting lines, dust, and crowding. A few like us looked on the experience as an adventure. Many others, however, were fearful, and nearly everyone was confused. What we all had in common—those at Subic Bay and those of us at the beach—was that none of us knew we were leaving our homes forever and that life would never again be quite the same. Just 48 hours later Pinatubo would irrevocably change everything.

Tragedy struck Wednesday morning when the volcano exploded, sending a mushroom cloud so high that the mass could be seen from our beach a hundred miles away and spewing volcanic ash thousands of feet into the atmosphere. Ironically, much of this initial ash was to be wind borne to the supposedly safe Subic Bay area, largely missing Clark Air Base just eight miles from Pinatubo.

Adding to the confusion and overcrowding at Subic Bay came the horror of what damage the ash might be doing to human bodies. And Pinatubo kept blasting more ash into the air. Nearly all communication to the Philippines was severed. At the beach we waited and wondered what was happening and what would happen to us.

Worse was to come. On Saturday, "Black Saturday," the ash cloud descended, and day became night. In the afternoon a typhoon passed through, not a major one by Philippine standards, but the rain it dumped combined with volcanic ash—now nearly a foot deep at Subic—to form a substance like cement. Under its weight, roofs at Clark, Subic, and their neighboring communities began to collapse. At Subic, a teenage girl being sheltered in the high school gym, was crushed and became the second American casualty. (The first, skidding on ash, crashed his car into a truck.) Trees fell across roads and power lines, cutting off escape routes and electricity. And at the beach, rumors filtered in, and we wondered and waited some more.

Misery piled upon misery that night. Near Clark lightning rent the air. Volcano-activated earthquakes shook, jerked houses and ruptured water mains. Pinatubo furiously erupted, booming like fireworks. Sand, ash, and rocks rained down upon rooftops. Rainwater mixed with ash, caused mud flows which swept away shanties, pushed into elegant houses and collapsed the major bridges near Clark. All through that hellish night terrified people huddled for safety in their darkened homes. Meanwhile, military officials made the decision to evacuate all but mission-essential personnel from the American bases in the Philippines. But what would happen to us at the beach? Would we be forgotten? We waited to see.

By the following Friday, when the evacuation from Subic was complete, I felt I must see our house at Clark one more time. Taking with me an empty carry-on bag and a gallon jug of water, I traveled by car, jeepney (a fancifully decorated, jeep-fronted, open-sided mini-bus), and three-wheeled taxi to our off-base home. Nearing Clark, I encountered the most complete devastation I have ever witnessed. City streets were made impassable by piles of ash shoveled from roofs. Other streets disappeared entirely under their burden of ash. Once familiar sites had become unrecognizable. Streams had escaped their clogged beds and had formed new ones across roads and through subdivisions. A shroud of gray blanketed everything. Surveying the destruction, I realized that we could never live there again.

Strangely, our house, though ash-laden, was intact. Workers were shoveling ash from the roof, the only sound breaking the unnatural silence. Flies crawled everywhere, too dazed to fly much. Quietly I entered the house. There were more flies, ants, and the smell of rotten meat. (Food had spoiled because electricity had been out for a week, a disaster in itself in our tropical climate.) Our maid greeted me joyfully, hysterically. She had stayed in the house through much of the ordeal.

That night, as I lay in our bed for the last time, two earthquakes shook, and Mt. Pinatubo erupted again with the roar of a distant blast furnace. I was not afraid, but I asked myself, "What am I doing here?" I felt I must leave this place, that I did not belong here anymore. I belonged back at the beach with my husband.

The next morning I filled two carry-ons with a few clothes and personal treasures—diaries, sterling silver, savings bonds, pictures from our daughter's wedding, and an antique bar pin. I paid my maid, hugged her, said a final good-bye to her, to our house, and to the rest of our "things"—sapphire earrings I couldn't find, our vintage Porsche, old-fashioned photographs of my husband's parents I just had framed as a surprise anniversary gift, summer dresses, original portraits of our children the day they became naturalized Americans—accumulations of more than thirty years of marriage. I walked out the door and into a "trike."

At what had once been the main bridge in Angeles City, there was now a jury-rigged footbridge of bamboo and stepping stones. Two wiry Filipinos seized my luggage, and I followed them across this quaking structure and up one of the two bamboo ladders on the opposite side. My soul was in pain, but I still knew that this was an adventure. I juggled my bulky purse and camera to get photos of the Filipinos streaming across the river on that slender bridge.

On the other side of the Abacan River, I located a small bus headed north. As we left Angeles City, the sky turned black and our driver put on his headlights. I was experiencing the ash cloud for the first time. Meanwhile, at the beach, the sun shone, and those American refugees who had gone north were informed that they would be evacuated from the local airport the next day.

Thus it was that on Sunday, 23 June, thirteen days after the original order to depart Clark Air Base, we found ourselves on a small cargo

plane leaving the beach—and the Philippines—probably forever. And back a Clark, even before our plane took off, looters with trucks moved in on our house.

Homeless and jobless, we were delighted to be informed by the Dept. of Defense that we had been reassigned to a very small school in Iwakuni, Japan—located on the sea on the southern portion of the main island—near Hiroshima.

(The AOSA has videotapes of Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Base, and the DoD Schools following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo.)

Marcia and her husband Douglas reside at: 205 Double Eagle Drive #30, Surfside Beach, SC 29575, and in Penang, Malaysia May through September.



TO PINATUBO

BY JAN HINCH

You looked so innocent
Set against the blue horizon.
A thing to admire; lifting our spirits.
Your peak piercing the sky;
A great beauty set in the landscape.
A mountain to be viewed and enjoyed—
Sending out a sense of mystery;
Almost as if calling one to come.
Even after you awakened,
Spewing hot steam into the air;
We enjoyed your beauty and felt secure
beneath
Your protecting slopes.
Then, anger deep within your
Depths sent out rumblings and
frightening earthquakes.
Our complacent lives were changed.
You sent us racing from our home
With pitiful little from our lives
We left everything
To caravan away to safety.
You sent us out suddenly
With no closure;
Away from friends and familiar things.
Even then, we felt that in a
Few days it would be over
And we would return.
Instead, it became a fight for survival!
Your anger continued to crescendo!
Deep within, you heaved and thrust.
No longer docile and beautiful;
You were demanding, full of power,
In control, ready to devour
And suffocate with your might!
Up from your bowels
Came the explosion,
Shooting twenty miles up—
A huge mushroom cloud!
Beautiful to see; it struck awe

Until we saw the angry,
Churning, black, ash
Billowing from the top of the cloud;
Covering the sky above us as
You enveloped us in your power.
We heard the frantic shout of the
guards;
The order to evacuate at once!
Even as we raced away
From the gigantic infernal;
It chased us, ready to swallow us up!
It was 9 A.M. on a bright, sunny
morning;
But the day had turned as black as
midnight.
Emotions were high; the furry of
Grabbing up Filipino children and
mothers,
Fleeing in panic, to join our racing bus.
The terror of realizing your power
Could not be outrun.
The winds changed and
We safely evacuated to
The foot of Mt. Arayat
With the troops and military convoy.
The day ebbed on.
Finally we were returned to Subic,
Feeling we had witnessed your most
dangerous anger.
Then your fury was renewed!
This time with even greater power—
Higher explosions.
Even from our safe haven,
We felt your fury.
The sky rained sand, then sheets of
mud;
Covering everything in volcanic ash.
The trees bent and crashed from
The weight of their added burden.

As mud and ash covered our car,
Houses caved in,
lightning and thunder flashed and roared!
Again daytime turned to night
As the ash blocked out the sun.
Nature was not yet satisfied.
She sent a typhoon to increase our threat.
We raced toward Manila to beat her
wrath.
Down the mountain road with
Ash falling so thick we could not see.
The winds and mud-filled rain
Picked up and we clung to the
Side of the mountain road,
Feeling certain this would be our end.
At long last we saw a bit of light in the
sky
And we crept down the mountain into
Manila.
Our relief was great and beyond
compare!
We'd made it
We welcomed the thought of the flight
out;
Away from our frightening, gray, ash-
filled world.
Little did we know all flights would be
canceled.
There was no way out!
Then the earthquakes began
To let us know you were still in charge.
You've won!
You've stolen thirty years of our lives
And continue to make our decisions
That keep us your prisoner.
Are you not satisfied?
Or will your wrath continue;
Blending our lives with yours?

Jan Hinch was a teacher at The Amelia Earhart Intermediate School in Okinawa, Japan, when she penned "To Pinatubo" in the Fall of 1991. She resides with her husband Clarence at 655 Forest Shore Drive, Destin, FL 32541.

YOUR STORIES URGENTLY NEEDED ON VIDEOTAPE

Now that the American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA) are in Wichita, Kansas, and will soon be operational again, AOSA is reactivating a program of videotaping, in 30–60 minute segments, the experiences of Americans and foreigners involved in the overseas education of American students. If you own a camcorder, or can borrow or rent one, please help! Record the stories of those who live near you, and encourage them to carry on the process by recording others. Your tapes will be carefully preserved for viewing in the AOS Historical Park Research Center and of benefit to scholars, writers, researchers, historians, and the general public in the decades ahead. The entire audio/visual collection will later be converted to compact digital audio discs.

This project started in 1993 when the AOSA was located at Northern Arizona University. By 1995, when the archives were moved to Goodyear, Arizona, many valuable recordings had been made of "early day educators," a number of which have already passed on. **Time, obviously, is of the essence!** We need to impress all who have been, or are involved with overseas schools, of the importance of recording the unique experiences of those who have lived and studied abroad, **NOW**.

Following are general recommendations for those who want to help:

We have learned by experience that those persons being recorded perform much better if their responses to questions are impromptu and not rehearsed. Do not let those to be recorded have your questions beforehand, or else their answers will tend to be canned and less interesting. Also, we have learned that those doing the recordings should inject, when appropriate, a prepared number of questions while maintaining a friendly discussion.

We suggest, for sake of standardization, that you start each session by identifying who you are, and

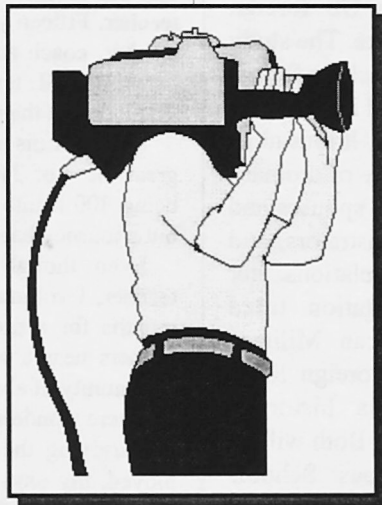
the date and location of the recording. Then, proceed informally and raise questions as to where subjects were born, where they lived, the names of elementary, middle, junior, senior high schools and colleges attended, degrees earned, and jobs worked prior to going overseas. Find out what interested them in going overseas, and how it all came about. Couples being interviewed together will occasionally correct one another, especially regarding their children. This adds humor, a relaxed feeling, and a naturalness they enjoy. Don't be surprised at a lot of laughter, or even some crying. Next, inquire about how they went overseas, from where to where, by ship or

plane, their first jobs, how they adjusted to military base or "on the economy" housing, and importantly to foreign cultures. This can be followed by descriptions of other positions held, what was exciting, unique, difficult, on and on. Finally lead the subjects into discussing when and why they returned to the states, and for some, why they soon turned around and went back overseas. Throughout the interview find out the most unique, enjoyable, and most difficult aspects of their overseas lives, and finally, their plans for the future. In closing the

interviews, we suggest you request the subjects to add additional comments—answers to questions you did not ask them.

It is difficult to get people to do recordings, but easy to find those who will agree to be recorded. We plan, in time, to get the overseas schools and alumni associations involved in this important project. So, alumni and current overseas educators, take heed.

Those interested in helping the AOSA with this project, or providing free advice, please contact A. Lucille Hansen, 2nd Vice President at the Litchfield Park, AZ address.



COLD WAR FAMILIES ABROAD:

Writing the History of America's Unofficial Ambassadors

(An Update)

As announced in earlier editions of *The AOSHS Quarterly*, Donna Alva, Ph.D. history candidate at the University of California in Davis, is involved in a research study about the perceptions and experiences of Americans and host citizens who resided at or near US overseas military bases in the period spanning 1945 to the early 1960s. She invited qualified members of the *Society* to participate in the study, a doctoral dissertation seeking to explain how American military families and educators abroad played a role in US foreign relations during the early Cold War era. The study broadly defines foreign relations to include formal as well as informal social and cultural interactions between Americans and host citizens. It thus aims to further understanding about the role of ordinary people—military personnel and their spouses and children, teachers and school administrators, and host citizens—in American foreign relations. Her intent is to complete the dissertation titled “Unofficial Ambassadors: American Military Families Overseas and Cold War Foreign Relations, 1945-1962,” and publish a historical manuscript based on the dissertation. Both will be donated to the American Overseas Schools Archives in Wichita, Kansas.

The response from members has been encouraging and supportive, and approximately 65 enrolled in the study have received a questionnaire requiring up to two hours to complete.

Questions regarding the study should be directed to Donna at the Department of History, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 750-0492, e-mail:

<dxalvah@ucdavis.edu>.



MAIL BOX

The article **One Way to Retire Abroad** by Lowell Jacobson in the Winter '99 issue of *The Quarterly* stimulated the writing of a number of letters to AOSHS—excerpts of one are copied below. Other Retired Abroad Letters will be printed, space available, in later editions:

A PAUSE ALONG THE ROAD

By Norman E. Kuhne

It probably started with my grandfather Emil. Hearing his tales of adventure and travel; starting with his walk through Europe at the age of 14, leading to him being at the right place at the wrong time—his journey home delayed by impressment into the German navy. Thus, I became a geographer and educator; a journey that has seen a 41-year, off-and-on-again career as a teacher. Fifteen years spent working for DoDDS as a teacher, coach and administrator, now finds me as a part-time ESL teacher here in Teresina, the capital of Piaui, one of the poorest states of Brazil.

My son Luis and I live in a small apartment with a great view of 342 units across the street. Our home being 300 k into the interior—a seven-hour bus ride, but a journey back in time of about 50 years.

Even though I was an experienced HS math teacher, I volunteered to be the field director for six months for a project trying to get land for peasant farmers near a water well and electricity in a mini-community of about 20 families. Six years later we are still here wondering what the next chapter will be.

Surviving the initial trauma of being under-employed, my days give me plenty of time for reading, writing, and reflection—things few school systems value and provide. The irony is this period should come earlier in a person's career, to benefit themselves, colleagues, and students. It's time at last to come to terms with the greatest potential for education, the internet, hoping that it, with other forms of media, will allow teachers to again be mentors and provide inspiration for their charges, each of whom will be more in charge of their education.

Norman can be contacted at: Av N.S. de Fatima, 979; Teresina, Piaui; 64048-180 Brazil, e-mail: <profnorman@hotmail.com>

.....NOTICE: TO THE RIGHT OF YOUR NAME ON YOUR QUARTERLY ENVELOPE ADDRESS LABEL IS A NUMBER. IF THE NUMBER IS 14 OR LESS, THIS IS A REMINDER THAT YOUR DUES ARE DUE, UNLESS OF COURSE YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID THEM. PLEASE SEND \$10 TO AOSHS. TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS ARE ALSO MUCH APPRECIATED.

REUNION NEWS

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COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH GATHERING OF EAGLES

By T.D. "Terry" Jorgensen

This tri-annual reunion for Nurnberg American High School will be hosted by The Beaver Run Resort & Conference Center, at the base of the famed Breckenridge, Colorado Ski Resort, **June 17-20, 1999.**

As of April 1, 424 had registered, but others who plan to attend the "Gathering of Eagles," had better hurry. **Contact by e-mail T.D. Jorgensen, Association President at: <Nurnberg62@aol.com> or Gila Erving Montfort, Association Sec/Treas at: <GMontfo@ibm.net>. To reserve a room call the resort at: 1-800-525-2253. For transportation or rental cars, contact Ron Burgess of Uniglobe Travel at: 1-800-888-2940. The Nurnberg HS AA web site is: <http://itdcomm.com/nurnberg>.**

Thursday, 17 June is an open day for recreational activities, e.g. hot-air ballooning, sailing on Lake Dillon, mountain biking, golfing, tennis, bowling, and "arm-chair wrestling" in Tiffany's Lounge. Evening activities include popular sounds of "Sunny Sound South"—Karaoke and dance music by Bill & Sunny Schwentner (Kubasaki HS AA) of Orlando on Friday, and a 'platted-dinner dance' Saturday night.

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HOMECOMING 1999

By Linda Yetter Irvine

I am one of the millions of Americans who had the wonderful opportunity to spend part of my childhood overseas. My father was stationed in Germany for seven years and I attended 7-12th grades there. I have often been asked what it was like growing up overseas. How do you start to answer a question like that? We lived during history-in-the-making as the Bader-Meinhof terrorist gang kidnapped an American General and left threats of bombs throughout the city. Our main hangout was an old castle ruin and our senior trips were spent on the coast of Spain. There were good and not-so-good things about growing up overseas, but I wouldn't give them up for anything in the world. I think the one thing that stands out most was our sense of patriotism. It did not matter if we were Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, or American Indian: Together, we were a minority in a foreign country. We were individually and collectively Americans and darn proud of it. I think that is something Americans tend to lose a sense of, at times.

A few years later I started the Zweibruecken Germany Alumni Association, which has now been going strong for 16 years. Then I discovered AOSHS. What a thrill it was to know that somebody out there was not only recognizing what a huge part of our lives being a Brat was, but was also making an effort to maintain and educate others on our unique heritage.

OVERSEAS BRATS, will host the next all-overseas schools reunion. This event, named **Homecoming 1999** will be held August 5-8, 1999 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport, in Grapevine, Texas. **THE REUNION BRAT** has been named as General Manager for this grand event, which is expected to host 2,000 people from schools all across the world! More than 60 groups/schools will be holding a get-together of some kind at **Homecoming 1999**, and students and educators from an additional 60 other schools are planning to attend. We are hoping that many Overseas Students and Faculty will join us at **Homecoming 1999** this year.

If you are an overseas brat or educator who would like to attend **Homecoming 1999**, or simply want to come and share memories with old and new friends, please **contact OVERSEAS BRATS at (210) 349-1394 <OSBPRES@aol.com>, or THE REUNION BRAT at (509) 582-9304 <Bratemail@aol.com>. For Hotel Reservations, at the Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport, call: 1-800-233-1234. For transportation contact Kennewick Travel at 1-800-323-8728 or <tammy.kennewick@wspace.com>.**

Madrid/Torrejón High School Association

By Jeff Schafer

The Madrid/Torrejón High School Association will be having a reunion at the SunBurst Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona on July 15-18, 1999. This reunion is for *everyone* who was ever been associated with the Madrid High School or the Torrejón High School—as students, teachers, other staff, or whatever.

Conversations with students from other overseas high schools make it clear that the following observations apply to faculty and staff from *all* such schools.

Former teachers and other staff are especially welcome. *Notwithstanding the special bond and camaraderie that DoDDS educators feel for each other, we students feel that those educators who attend only DoDDS reunions are missing out on a great opportunity.* Some educators may feel that they would be unwanted or out of place at a school reunion attended mainly by students. But our experience, and that of the teachers and staff who have attended our reunions, has been to the contrary. *We share a common experience as Americans who have lived overseas. Moreover, those who educated us had a very important influence on us, and school reunions give us an opportunity, not only to catch up, but also to show our appreciation.*

Various class subgroups from the school, some of which started having reunions in the mid-'70s, found each other in the late '80s. This first all-class, all-era reunion for MHS and THS was held in 1990. The 1999 edition will be the fourth such reunion, and so far is shaping up as the largest: Early registrations are already more than the total attendance at the last reunion in 1996, and it is possible that total registration will exceed 550. Furthermore, as of early April so many people had reserved hotel rooms that the SunBurst was sold out (although overflow space is available at an adjacent hotel).

The M/THSA has invited the AOSHS to participate in the reunion by setting up a display and by having board members give a presentation during the Farewell Breakfast on Sunday. With any luck, by the end of the reunion there should be a measurable increase in AOSHS membership and in the Building Fund.

Registration forms and other reunion information are available by contacting the M/THSA at P.O. Box 210448, San Francisco, CA 94121-0448 or (415) 379-9872.

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Announcing Woodstock School—India, Reunions

Woodstock Old Students Association—North America

July 2-5, 1999. Bristol, Rhode Island.

Roger Williams University will be the welcoming site for the WOSA/NA Annual Reunion. Surrounded by bays and ocean, Bristol is a quaint old town just north of the Mt. Hope bridge. Apartment-like living quarters will make the possibility of visiting with close friends even greater than usual. Going to parks and beaches, shopping, or sight seeing in Newport are options for filling in free hours. The oldest continual Fourth of July parade will be held in Bristol. Contact WOSA/North America Alumni Office, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. #408, Atlanta, GA 30308 (404) 524-5420 <kwi@mindspring.com>. www.kwi.org

Woodstock Old Students Association—Europe

September 11-12, 1999. Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

Spend a weekend in one of England's oldest colleges. Bring memories, photos and stories of your Woodstock days to share with others. Optional guided tour of Cambridge on Sunday. Contact Chris Appleby tel: 01508 495283. Address: 15 Five Acres, Long Lane - Stoke Holy Cross, Norwich, Norfolk, England. <dita@ditahollins.demon.co.uk>.

Woodstock Old Students Association—India

May 21-23, 1999

Plan on coming "to the Hills" for this spring time reunion and celebration of Woodstock past, present and future. Activities include drama by talented members of WOSA-India as well as Woodstock students, and a science fair by current middle and high school students. Contact WOSA/India Alumni Office. Woodstock School. Mussoorie, UP 248 179 India. <admin@wdstock.globemail.com>, <www.kwi.org/woodstock>.