The

AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

An Arizona Non-Profit Corporation

Box 777 Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

(623) 935-3939 <OverseasSchools@Juno.com> FACSIMILE: (623) 935-7677

VOLUME IV, No. 3, SUMMER 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.

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Readers are encouraged to

The



AOSHS QUARTERLY

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

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In this issue we are pleased to further spread word regarding the recent appointments of Mr. Ray Tolleson of Sacramento, California as the Interim Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity, and Ms. Diana Ohman of Cheyenne, Wyoming as the new DoDEA Deputy Director of DoD Dependents Schools, Europe.

In 1996 the American Association of School Administrators named Mr. Tolleson as the California State Superintendent of the Year. He is also the recipient of the highest awards given by California local and state administrators' associations, and honored by resolutions in the California Assembly and Senate for his leadership and outstanding service to education.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Ohman served as the Wyoming Secretary of State. In 1990 she was recognized as a National Distinguished Principal of the Year by the U.S. Office of Education, and from 1991 to 1994 was the Wyoming State Superintendent of Public Education.

We also feel it important to draw your attention to articles regarding:

- (1) A Beautification Project for Phase One of the Historical Park in Wichita, Kansas, and the establishment of policy for the procurement of inscribed bricks, pavers, benches, trees, <u>and</u> memorials for deceased students, educators and their families, host nation teachers and school employees.
- (2) Exhibiting the three-dimensional domed model of the Historical Park at three reunions, a DoDDS Leadership Conference, and the Overseas Brats Homecoming '99. The model was constructed by the architectural engineering firm SJCF and Associates in Wichita, and shows the completed project as envisioned now. Accompanying the model are photographs and large charts showing Phase One, and future construction phases of the Historical Park.

Members will be pleased with two new developments: AOSHS will soon have a World Wide Web Site, courtesy of Wichita State University. Also, AOSHS has received its first corporate gift from two brothers, Tim and Eric Crown, President and CEO of INSIGHT and alumni of the now closed Wagner High School, Clark AFB. Philippines.



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 DATA-



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, 1 8727 Pemberton Circle 1 please send your name (including maiden); mailing address; telephone and fax numbers; e- I Indianapolis IN 46260 I mail address; countries, schools, and above school level offices where worked; years at each | <jbr/>prokaw@aol.com> location, including grade levels, subjects, and positions to JOHN. If you have been, or are an overseas student, 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.

MARGIE PRATER KUGLER

414 N Vine St

Abilene KS 67410-2472

(785) 263-3019

<mkugler@access-one.com>

WERNER PRIGGE



TINA CALO P.O.Box 15871 Surfside Beach SC 29587

AOSHS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

REGION 1 PACIFIC: DoD and INTERN	ATIONAL SCHOOLS			
JAPAN and OKINAWA • JEFF PELLATON - Kubasaki HS	PSC 557 Box 455 FPO AP 96379-0455	645-3728/4876	<pellatons@yahoo.com></pellatons@yahoo.com>	
SHELLY PELLATON	PSC 557 Box 455 FPO AP 96379-0455	645-3728/4876	<pellatons@yahoo.com></pellatons@yahoo.com>	
GUAM - HAWAII - KOREA, and OTHER			The statement of the start	
MICHAEL O'BRIEN	PO Box 384899, Waikoloa, HI 96738	(808) 883-8002	<onggi@aloha.net></onggi@aloha.net>	
DECION 2 ALASKA NEVADA OPECO	ON, WASHINGTON and WESTERN CANADA		Construction and Learning Co.	
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• MARIE ESPINOZA REGION 3 CALIFORNIA - MIDDLE - N		(,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		
	3313 Estates Dr., Fairfield, CA 94533	(707) 421-0783		
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	950 Mayo St, Los Angeles, CA 90042	(213) 258-7323	<esmith04@lausd.k12.ca.us></esmith04@lausd.k12.ca.us>	
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• LESLIE & CAROL BURCH		(970) 226-0196	<lesburch@aol.com></lesburch@aol.com>	
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HOMER N. SMITH	809 Joshua St, Hutchinson, KS 67502	(316) 662-7877	<homers@midusa.net></homers@midusa.net>	
REGION 8 ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, M		(010) 002 707		
	4000 Highland Dr, Denison, TX 75020	(214) 528-6368	<overcbrat@aol.com></overcbrat@aol.com>	
• JOY BRYANT	OUTH DAKOTA, WISCONSIN and CENTRAL C.			
	4007 Forest Rd, St Louis Park, MN 55416	(612) 925-6136	<logorobertson@usinternet.com></logorobertson@usinternet.com>	
GORDON ROBERTSON TOWN INDIAN		(012) >20 0100		
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REGION 13 FLORIDA	901 American Rose Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32825	(407) 249-4188	<khsdragon@aol.com></khsdragon@aol.com>	
SUNNY SCHWENTNER		(407)217 1100		
REGION 14 NORTH - SOUTH CAROLI	PO Box 15871, Surfside Beach, SC 29587	(843) 293-5835	<tc.calo@cwix.com></tc.calo@cwix.com>	
• TINA CALO	WASHINGTON D.C. and WEST VIRGINIA	(0.0) 200	O MI to entire the	
	Box 106, Middlebourne, WV 26149	(304) 758-2801		
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REGION 16 NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK	A, and PENNSTLVANIA	(610) 929-2367		
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NOREEN A. PYNE		(701) 333 3410		
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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 44-171-723-2532				
• BILL KILTY 72 Westb	mpellaan 6A, 3769 JB Soesterberg, The Netherlands T	rel 31-346-353428		
RUTH VAN OOSTRUM Oude Ter	mpeliaan 6A, 5/69 JB Soesterberg, The Netherlands I	Α		
MIDDLE and SOUTHERN EUROPE, N	MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE EAST and AFRIC	1.49-6122-8376 <rober< td=""><td>t Lykins@ccmail.odedodea.edu></td></rober<>	t Lykins@ccmail.odedodea.edu>	

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

• ROBERT LYKINS DoDDS European Area Office, CMR 443, Box 134, APO AE 09096 Tel 49-6122-8376 < Robert_Lykins@ccmail.odedodea.edu>

Goethestr 25, D-10625 Berlin, Germany Tel 030/313-7687 Fax 02661/91316-39215 < Prigge@informatik.hu-berlin.de>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- August 17, 1999, E-mail from Dr. Thomas R. Ellinger, Superintendent of DoD Schools in Turkey, Spain, Bahrain, and the Azores "Today we had the big earthquake near Istanbul. Our people in Izmir and Ankara felt the earthquake as the Hilton in Izmir and the Sheraton in Ankara shook heavily. Our teachers new to Turkey are staying there as they await housing. In Incirlik, we have had power outages on and off during the day and just experienced a minor quake an hour ago. Our DoDDS folks all seem to be OK. Thanks for all you do for us overseas types. -Tom Ellinger" <tom_ellinger@ccmail.odedodea.edu>.
- ⇒ Memorial for Joyce A. Dion Ms. Joyce A. Dion, a former DoDDS teacher and coordinator with 29 years overseas in mainland Japan, the Philippines, England, Spain and Okinawa, died suddenly in her Connecticut home in July of this year. Co-workers and former students interested in contributing to a memorial to be installed in the American Overseas Schools Historical Park in Wichita, KS: please send contributions to Richard A. Hoge, 2945-A Mesa Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. All contributions are tax deductible. Depending upon the amount collected, the memorial could be a brick, a paver, a bench, or a tree. Note: Future memorial announcements will include a specific AOSHS mailing address for contributions. See the new policy for memorials on page nine of this issue.
- ⇒ At the Fourth Annual Meeting of AOSHS Members in San Diego on July 6, 1999, Tom and Norma Drysdale were reelected as President and Secretary/Treasurer, for three year terms, beginning January 1, 2000. They acknowledged, and expressed appreciation for the vote of confidence and strong support the Board has received since the Society was incorporated as a nonprofit on July 20, 1995. They further announced their commitment to serve the Society as volunteers for the rest of their lives, but requested that the membership Pass-the-Torch to others at the end of their terms in office on December 31, 2002. At the same meeting, members elected five new Regional Representatives: Shelly Pellaton—Region 1; Homer Smith—Region 7; Jan Johnson—Region 10; Pat Saddlemire—Region 12; and Noreen Pyne—Region 17. On July 21, 1999, Maria Rubio was appointed by the Board to represent the new District of Guam in Region 1. See page two for addresses.
- ⇒ Members of the *Society* especially those who have personal collections in the *Archives*, will be pleased to learn of a recent arrangement with the Wichita Police Department. The Patrol South Community Police Unit now occupies half of the *AOS Archives Building* at the northwest corner of Water and Dewey Streets. Additional storage space for the *Archives* is also available in a city building directly across the street. This arrangement provides the best security possible for the *Archives*. Mike Watson, the Wichita City Chief of Police is a DoDDS alumnus. The Patrol South Community Police Unit in the *Archives Building* is headed by Lieutenant Darras Delamaide.
- ⇒ The AOS Archives were moved from Goodyear (west of Phoenix) to Wichita in September of 1998. The Board plans to have the Archives operational and available again to visitors in 2000. This will be accomplished with the help of volunteers. Free temporary housing for those who live outside the Wichita commuting area will be provided for one to eight members who want to assist in this project. Those interested should contact AOSHS, soon. Volunteers were of great assistance to the Archives Staff at Northern Arizona University—1989–94, and in Goodyear—1995–98.
- ⇒ On July 20, 1999, the Honorable Rudy de Leon, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness announced the selection of Ray Tolleson, past Superintendent of Schools, San Juan School District in Sacramento, CA, as Interim Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) for a period not to exceed one year, and Lillian Gonzalez as Special Advisor on Education to Secretary de Leon until her resignation as Director of DoDEA takes effect on September 11, 1999. In the same announcement, Diana Ohman, past Superintendent of Laramie County School District No. 1 in Cheyenne, WY, was selected to be the Deputy Director for DoD Dependents Schools (DoDDS) Europe.

August 1999, DoDEA — "As the new interim director of DoDEA, it gives me great pleasure to extend my greetings and appreciation to all of you who have made our DoD schools, both stateside and abroad, so successful.

I am excited to take part with you in making the upcoming 1999-2000 school year the best ever!" -Ray Tolleson.

- ⇒ The AOSHS has a new supply of T-shirts, caps, and patches. AOSHS Logo Patches are \$5.00 each. An AOSHS Cap is \$16.00. T-shirts are available in M, L, XL, XXL, and XXXL. Each shirt is \$16.00, with an AOSHS Logo on the upper left front. They come in basic white or ash gray. Each of these items makes great gifts for your current and past overseas friends. Make your checks payable to AOSHS and send your order to Lee Davis, 2224 Periwinkle, Mesa, AZ 85206.
- ⇒ If anyone knows the whereabouts of Amanda Perry, please tell her to contact AOSHS: we have her money, but no address or phone number.
- ⇒ The response continues to be excellent to requests in past issues of *The Quarterly* for the names and addresses of those who have completed half or more of their K-6, 7-12, or K-12 schooling overseas. These students and alumni will have the opportunity to participate in research that will compare them to their stateside counterparts. Members and non-members are encouraged to submit the names of students and alumni who qualify.
- ⇒ Responses to our requests for stories of overseas experiences, 1946–1956, to be added to a book entitled *THE EARLY DAYS* continues to be good, but again has delayed printing of the book. Our plans are to eventually publish books of overseas experiences in ten year blocks of time, e.g. 1946–56, 1956–66, 1966–76, etc. The stories of most overseas educators will be recorded in two books, some in three, and a few in four. Those who have worked in the *AOS Archives* recognize the historical importance of this project and encourage current and retired educators to write the stories of their lives overseas and submit them to the *AOSA*.
- ⇒ John J. Mitchell of South Hadley, MA has sent to AOSA, his two old USA Passports dated July 25, 1966 and December 3, 1970, with a donation of money for the construction of a Passport Display Rack in the AOS Historical Park Museum in Wichita. No other group of US educators and students will have a collection of passports comparable to that of American Overseas Schools educators, students and their families. Those who still have old passports are now encouraged to send them to the AOSA, and those with unexpired passports, to save them for the display rack in the museum.

It has also been suggested a number of times, that the museum have a display of foreign country automobile license plates, like those frequently seen in the garages of many Americans who have lived abroad. Now, just recently, Fred Sisson of Wilmington, NC has added six English, German, and Turkish license plates to his collection of other memorabilia in the *Archives*. So, send your foreign license plates to *AOSA*.

- ⇒ Margie Prater Kugler of Abilene, KS is the AOSHS Database Manager for Overseas Schools Students and Alumni. The database is maintained solely in the interest of preserving historical records, which have not, and will not be used for any other purposes. Requests for names and addresses of individuals or groups in the database are forwarded to those whose names have been requested. The database is also designed to be of assistance to the several hundred active Overseas Schools Alumni Associations. Frequently the AOSHS is contacted by alumni in search of old friends and memorabilia. The Society provides them with the names and addresses of their school alumni associations, and encourages them to join, support, and participate in alumni activities.
- ⇒ In the last issue of *The Quarterly*, it was announced that as of April 1, membership exceeded 1,100, and that 1,200 or more were expected by mid-summer. Actually by mid-summer the number was 1,352, and of this date it has exceeded 1,600. Ann Bamberger, *AOSHS Membership Chairperson* has established a goal of 2,000 members in the Year 2000, and the chant is 2,000 in 2000, 3,000 in 2001, etc.



AOSHS's First Corporate Sponsor

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) is pleased to announce that it has received its first in-kind grant of \$25,000 from INSIGHT Enterprises, Inc., of Tempe, Arizona. www.insight.com

INSIGHT is a global marketer of name brand computers, hardware, and soft ware. 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 various administrative and marketing committees of the AOSHS and AOSA in Litchfield Park (Phoenix), Arizona; Austin, Texas; and Wichita, Kansas.

Tim Crown is President of INSIGHT and his brother **Eric Crown** is the Chief Executive Officer. They are both alumni of Wagner High School, Clark Air Force Base, Philippines.

AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL PARK BACKGROUND AND UPDATE

The main criteria used in selecting a city for the American Overseas Schools Historical Park were: There must be (1) A large military presence with a strong interest in DoD Overseas Dependents Schools, their students and educators; (2) A number of US businesses involved overseas, with a strong interest in private International Schools abroad, their students and educators; (3) A university or college with a strong international interest that wants to become involved with the AOSHS and its archives; and (4) The city must demonstrate a strong desire for the Historical Park and agree to work "hand-in-glove" with the *Society* for the mutual benefit of both.

The initial AOSHS letter sent to the mayors of the largest cities in fourteen metropolitan areas stated, "... your city/metropolitan area has been selected as the possible site for the establishment of the American Overseas Schools Historical Park ... " The letter further stated, "The final selection will be influenced by community leaders who recognize the potential tourist and international cultural benefits of the park, and are interested in working with the historical society in the development of a coordinated

plan of action." An attachment to the letter entitled A VISION described three alternatives for the physical site and operational responsibilities: #1 The Park will be located on city property, but administered by The AOSHS in compliance with local ordinances; #2 The Park will be located on an inactive, or active military installation, but administered by The AOSHS in compliance with military regulations for the operation of museums and historical collections; and #3 The Park will be located on the campus of a university or college, but administered by the AOSHS in compliance with institutional policy and directives. Finally, the last paragraph of the attachment stated, "In all alternatives, buildings will be constructed, or if existing, modified using funds generated by the cooperative efforts of the AOSHS and local leaders in a coordinated plan of action. Building contents, e.g. the archives and museum statuary, monuments and memorials will remain the property of the AOSHS in perpetuity."

Wichita Kansas, far exceeded the thirteen other cities in meeting the requirements of criteria No.'s (3) and (4) by demonstrating a willingness to work closely with AOSHS in the development of a coordinated plan of action. For example: Soon after the nine member AOSHS Site Evaluation Committee arrived, they were ushered into a meeting with Wichita museum directors, all of whom warmly welcomed them, explained their own programs, and offered to be of continual assistance to the historical park project. Then, Mayor Bob Knight and WSU President Eugene Hughes hosted, on separate nights, receptions for the committee in the Wichita Boat House Visitors Center, and the President's residence on the WSU Campus. Both receptions were attended by approximately 75 community leaders, all of whom expressed desires to have the Historical Park in Wichita, and stated their willingness to be of help.

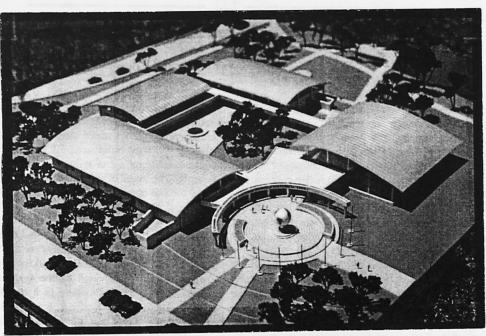
After the membership approved the selection of Wichita at the Third Annual meeting of Members in Minneapolis, the board of directors received a letter from Joan B. Cole, Council Member of Wichita District VI, site of the park,

which stated, "... and I assure you that we will do our very best to be responsive to The Society's needs during the transition—fund raising design and construction phase and into the future."

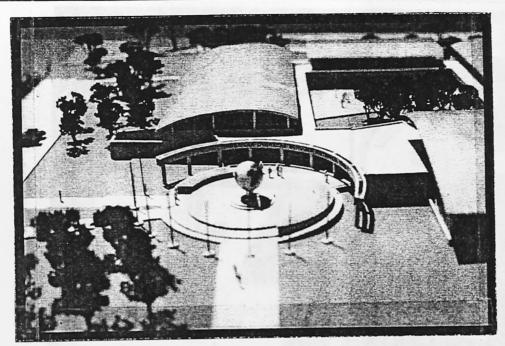
Last June the outline of a Year 2000 Fundraising Plan of Action, drafted by the Board of Directors, was discussed with Wichita City Hall and WSU personnel, then presented to members at the Fourth Annual Meeting on July 6, 1999 in San Diego. The plan was approved and a final draft will be coordinated with the City of Wichita and WSU in September. The outline is organized in two sections: I. Major Donors—Philanthropists, Corporations, Foundations, and Government; and II. Other Donors—Members, Nonmembers, Friends. A two-page outline of the AOSHS Fundraising Plan of Action will be sent to members who request and provide a self-addressed stamped envelope.

3-D MODEL OF THE HISTORICAL PARK

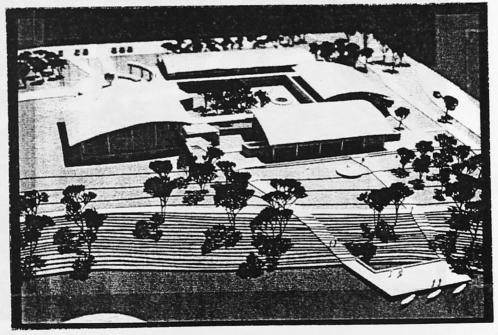
Since last June, a three-dimensional 3x3½-foot, domed model of the Historical Park, constructed by SJCF Architects in Wichita, Kansas has been exhibited at the Nürnberg HS Reunion in Breckenridge, Colorado; the DoDDS XI Reunion in San Diego, California; the Madrid/Torrejón HS Reunion in Scottsdale, Arizona; a DoDDS Leadership Conference for Administrators in Phoenix, Arizona; and the Brats Homecoming '99 in Grapevine, Texas. It will also be on display at the Annual Gathering of Brats in New Orleans next October. Two-by-two-inch slides and photographs of the model were also shown at the Berlin HS Alumni Association Reunion in Breckenridge, and will be shown in September at the Soesterberg HS Reunion in Phoenix. The model and poster illustrations of Phase One—the Visitors Center, and the complete park, were very popular at all of the reunions.



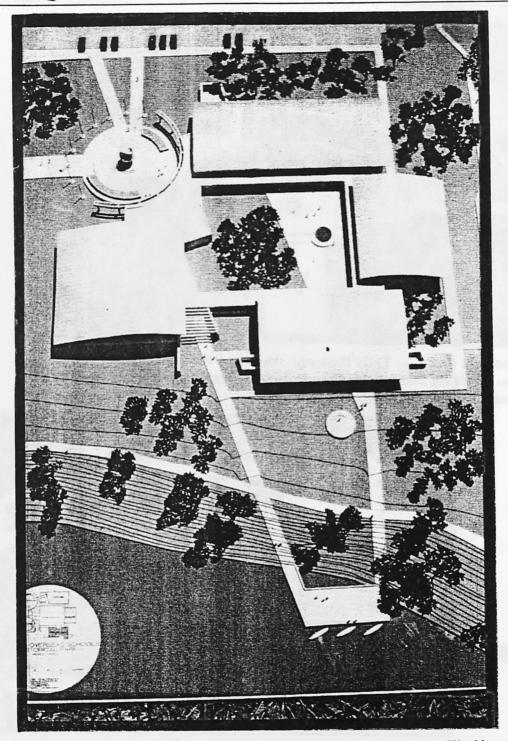
LOOKING SOUTHEAST — Arkansas River: top-right. Buildings, clockwise from middle-left: Museum, Archives, Visitors Center (Phase One), Auditorium.



LOOKING EAST — Entry Plaza with sidewalks from north and west parking lots; World Globe displaying Overseas Schools locations; Museum: top-center; Archives: top-right; Auditorium (roof): far-right.



LOOKING NORTH — Entry from Riverboat Dock and Park Walkway; Buildings, clockwise from left-center: Auditorium, Museum, Archives, Visitors Center, and Offices (Phase One).



BIRDSEYE VIEW, LOOKING NORTH — Buildings, clockwise from World Globe Entry Plaza: Museum, Archives, Visitors Center and Offices (Phase One), and Auditorium. Bottom: Arkansas River and Boat Dock.

Historical Park • Phase One • Beautification Project

By Lee Davis and Ann Bamberger

At the Annual AOSHS Business Meeting during the DoDDS XI Reunion in San Diego, the board presented projects that need to be started, finalized, or implemented prior to July 2000, if at all possible.

There was immediate interest from members in starting PROJECTS which will FUND the DEVELOPMENT and BEAUTIFICATION of COURTYARDS and ENTRY WAYS of the MUSEUM COMPLEX. (See architects' Long-Range Master Plan, maximizing the attributes of the site, on pages 6 and 7 in the Spring 1999 Issue of *The Quarterly*). We cannot wait though until the construction of the buildings is finished to begin these BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS. We must work in conjunction with the architects for the simultaneous completion dates of Phases One, Two, and Three, etc. To accomplish this, items must be purchased in advance and be available for placement in the park at the right time and place.

Funding for these projects can be obtained with tax deductible gifts of inscribed bricks, pavers, benches, and trees, etc., TO HONOR YOUR ATTENDANCE or SERVICE IN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS, or as MEMORIALS for STUDENTS, EDUCATORS and THEIR FAMILIES. It is our intent, to include in the November '99 *Quarterly*, an order form with descriptions and prices of various items for purchase during Phase One of the Park.

We realize the finished BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT for PHASE ONE will not take place prior to 2002. However, immediate funding will provide us the opportunity to begin development of a computerized program which will show visitors the location of each item, e.g. inscribed brick, paver, bench, tree, etc., and which will display or print the personal histories, photographs and reflections of those honored.

In the meantime, suggestions for this project will be greatly appreciated and should be sent to **Diana** Jean Kempton IIDA, 2312 West Lindner, No. 35, Mesa, AZ 85202. <DianaJean@Aol.Com> Fax: (602) 839-4592. Diana, a Berlin American High School Alumna, chairs the AOSHS Architectural Committee which was of considerable help to architects SJCF and Associates in Wichita, in the overall design of the Historical Park (See page 4 of the Spring '99 Issue of *The Quarterly*). She has recently been appointed by the AOSHS Board to be the Beautification Project Coordinator for Phase One.

MEMORIALS FOR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES

It has come to the attention of the board that there is an interest in establishing memorial funds for the purchase of gifts larger than bricks such as pavers (square, rectangular, hexagon, octagon, etc.), benches and trees.

The Board has established the following policy in this regard:

- 1. A request may be submitted to establish a memorial for deceased overseas schools personnel (educators, students, their families, host nation teachers and school employees).
- 2. The request cannot exceed 100 words and must specify who will be honored, and give a time limit by which all funds must be received (a maximum time of 6 months is allowed).
- 3. The requestor will receive a form to complete, and must provide a brief biography of the honoree (not more than 300 words), and include a photo if possible. These will be used in a computer program for the use of visitors, and to identify the location of memorials in the Historical Park.
- 4. The notice will appear in two issues of *The Quarterly*. The 6-month time limit begins at the first publication date.
- Checks must be made out to the AOSHS Memorial Program and sent to an AOSHS address soon to be established.

- 6. When the time limit is reached, the AOSHS will notify the requestor of the number of contributors and the total amount of the contributions. The requestor can then identify the item selected as the memorial, dependent on the amount collected.
- 7. Prior approval from the board is required for any item not listed above.
- 8. All donations to this program will be tax deductible.

Pavers will be inscribed as directed by the requestor—within the space allowed. Brass plaques will be inscribed and placed on tree planters and benches.

An example of the timeline follows: *The Quarterly* is issued four times each year in February, May, August, and November. If a notice of establishing a memorial appears in the February issue, it will be repeated in the following May issue. If it appears in the May issue, it will be repeated in the August issue, etc. There will be a six-month deadline for the collection of funds for each memorial. The requestor will then be notified within 30 days of the deadline, of the funds that are available for the purchase of a paver, bench, or tree. An announcement of the memorial gift will then appear in the next issue of *The Quarterly*.

Prices for the items noted will be available in the November issue. This notice is for informational purposes, since inquiries have been received by the Board.

Memorial Funds for the following individuals were sent to AOSHS prior to development of the above policy.

Guidance on how to contribute to these funds, in compliance with the new policy, will appear in the November issue of *The Quarterly*, following contact with the donors:

11/17/98	Memorial Fund established for Donald Grant by Burnadine Burke
11/17/98	Memorial Fund established for Gerda Natterstad by Burnadine Burke
12/18/98	Memorial Fund established for Michael Butterbaugh by Joan Frey
3/02/99	Memorial Fund established for Duncan Craig Weir by Renee Fajardo
3/03/99	Memorial Fund established for Robert Platenberg by Joan Frey
3/18/99	Memorial Fund established for John L. Steele by Alfred and Martha Beerbaum
5/02/99	Memorial Fund established for Harry Heiges by Anna Mary Mellinger
6/21/99	Donation to Memorial Fund for John L. Steele by Gwendolyn Steele
7/16/99	Memorial Fund established for Gwen Pizzuti by Violet Toy
8/15/99	Donation to Memorial Fund for Gwen Pizzuti by Mary Harrison





Logo created by Richard Randolph, Sebring Florida

WSU / AOSHS WEB SITE

By Glenn Greenwood, AOSHS Communications Director

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) will soon have a presence on the World Wide Web courtesy of Wichita State University (WSU), in Wichita, Kansas.

The AOSHS web site will contain information on the Historical Society, the American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA) and Museum. Additionally, links to overseas schools and their alumni groups will be available at this site.

Future plans allow call for secure on-line membership registration and AOSHS emblematic

item orders.

AOSHS webmasters, Lyn Fort, H. H. Arnold HS/Germany and Fred Rea, Ramey HS/Puerto Rico will be heading up efforts in this area for the AOSHS Office of Communications in Austin, Texas.

PANAMA CANAL ZONE DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS FADE INTO HISTORY

On December 31, 1999, the United States will turn the Panama Canal over to the Republic of Panama, in compliance with 1979 treaties negotiated by President Jimmy Carter and Panama's leader General Omar Torrijos. It will end a relationship between the two countries that began in 1903. The Zone's Balboa High School opened its doors in 1912 to the dependent youth of canal workers, US military and civilian personnel. The high school closed its doors on May 15, 1999 as 153 graduating seniors marched to their seats to the music of the US 79th Army Band, and said good-bye to an American way of life in Panama. The school building will be converted to offices for Panamanian Canal administrators.

During the 1990's the AOSHS Archives acquired a considerable amount of Canal Zone Schools' memorabilia including that of the Canal Zone College (CZC), renamed in 1979 to Panama Canal College (PCC). The main contributors have been **Donna Gillis**, whose collection contains many journals, books and student essays about Just Cause, the Liberation of Panama; **Katherine Egolf**, who donated a collection of essays about the Liberation in December 1989, as seen from the eyes of American fifth grade students; **Iris Kent** whose collection contains many photographs, papers, magazines, programs and booklets particularly regarding the CZC and PCC, the only community college operated by DoDDS. The Archives Collection of **Tom Price**, last Principal of Balboa High School, contains every yearbook from the mid-1920's, photographs, and historical records. His collection also has photographs, booklets, books, newspapers, magazines, official papers, and yearbooks of the DoD High Schools in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Greenham Common, England where he also served as principal. Tom has the credit of successfully closing two DoDDS High Schools—Greenham Common in England and Balboa in Panama.

The Archives recently acquired another fascinating collection from **Hudson "Bill" Phillips, Jr.** His collection contains a long, historically important, detailed account of his family's 1939–1942 tour of the Panama Canal Zone. His father was a military Chaplain. He had a brother and a sister. The paper has a number of topical headings. Following are a few sentences extracted from each topic. **MOVING:** Orders came for us to leave our assignment at Selfridge Field, Michigan and report to Fort Sherman in the Panama Canal Zone. Atlases and encyclopedias were brought out in an effort to find Panama. My mother asked if they had a PX? **THE VOYAGE:** We boarded the brightly colored **American Legion** at New York City. Though I was six years old, I had been on ocean ships before. Born at Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii, I had traveled three times on military transports before the age of three. **ARRIVAL:**

The harbor smells in Colon, Panama, were different than in New York. There was less of an industrial odor and more of a smell of people, vegetation and of exports from the Orient. FORT SHERMAN: Fort Sherman was a Coast Artillery post. Its purpose was to guard the Atlantic approach to the Canal with large, stationary guns and with mobile weapons pulled by mules. Clearly, Fort Sherman was an isolated assignment with no luxuries. THE COMMISSARY: In order to shop, it was necessary to board a packet boat and to travel across the bay to Cristobal. The trip took around an hour each way. The Commissary at Cristobal had its roots in the needs of those who had built the Panama Canal for personal supplies and, when families came, for household items. If it could be compared to anything today, it would be a combination of Sam's, Home Depot, and Pier I Imports. To this child, it seemed to be a wondrous cornucopia of consumer products. SECOND GRADE AT COLON: To attend school, it was necessary to ride in a staff car to the boat landing, board a packet boat, cross the bay, board another military vehicle at Cristobal and ride to our school in Colon. The process was repeated coming home. FORT DAVIS: In early 1940, we moved to another area of the Canal Zone, but we were still on the Atlantic side. Fort Davis was considerably larger than Fort Sherman and situated on a plain rather than in the jungle. We were stunned by the fact that we could be free of the inconveniences we had been living with. **THIRD** GRADE AT GATUN: My third grade teacher was Miss Fall. She reminded me of Zelda, the beautiful witch in The Wizard of Oz. She taught us third grade things, and I retained most of them, but what stuck most in my mind was a song that she had us learn—"Sleep my child and peace attend thee all through the night." It would prove to be comforting to me as I encountered new and unforeseen challenges. PEARL HARBOR: In the early hours of December 8, 1941, I could hear my parents returning from a party at France Field. They were talking in loud voices and I became alarmed. I asked my father what was the matter and he told me that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. He said not to worry because it was such a small country and that it would all be over quickly. When I woke up in the morning and went outside, I found Fort Davis preparing for war. EVACUATION: We left Panama in February 1943. The Shawnee Rainbow was painted a brownish gray. There was a destroyer escort due to the prevalence of German U-boats in the Gulf of Mexico. The fathers formed a small line on the dock and attempted to wear their best faces. As our ship pulled away, we waived our hankies and realized we were a part of something that would be very hard, perhaps, very tragic. It would be 1946 before we were to experience our father's regular presence in the home. We would see him for three brief visits before he left for the Pacific Theater as Division Chaplain of the 11th Airborne. **DOCKSIDE:** We had difficulty adjusting to the wartime atmosphere in America. We found something that children have difficulty understanding hatred. My comic book depicted a grotesque Japanese soldier stabbing a knife through the back of Uncle Sam.

AOSHS / PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION AGREEMENT

On behalf of the AOSHS, **Tom Price**, last Principal of Balboa High School in Panama, has successfully arranged for, and recorded the loan of a large amount of AOSHS/Panama Canal Schools memorabilia to the Panama Canal Society Foundation, Inc., for display in the Foundation's Museum to be built in the Tampa Bay area of Florida. In the interim the museum will be located in temporary quarters as a "minimuseum." The museum items will be transported to Florida and eventually to the AOSHS Museum in Wichita, KS, at PCSF expense. The agreement is reciprocal, allowing for items of public interest to be shared between the two museums. The Panama Canal Museum will focus on the American Era in Panama and the United States' participation. The museum will be dedicated to those generations of Americans who had a personal experience with the canal and the generations to follow.

Museum Exhibits

Construction of the AOS Historical Park—designed by Architects/Engineers Schaefer, Johnson, Cox, Frey and Associates in Wichita—is anticipated to begin in 2001. Phase One, the Visitors Center of approximately 7,500 sq. ft, will have: a 20x40-ft room for archive collections (unrecorded archives will be in storage elsewhere, and not be on display until recorded); a 25x40-ft combination theater/exhibit/meeting room—the beginning of a museum; a 20x20-ft conference room; office space, research area, a small kitchen, and a 30x45-ft reception and exhibit area.

Phases Two, Three, and Four will include separate buildings for the archives, a museum and gift shop, and a 200-seat auditorium with exhibition space. All Historical Park buildings will be connected with enclosed walkways.

Several groups are already planning exhibits for the museum, demonstrating that overseas students and educators were, and are, on the cutting-edge of history-in-the-making. Examples include: (1) A Nürnberg High School/Nürnberg War Crimes Trial Exhibit: Twenty-two leaders of Nazi Germany were tried. The trial was conducted by representatives of the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. Nürnberg American High School Students and their teachers attended the trials on a daily basis. (2) The Berlin Wall, going up and coming down: When the wall came down, Berlin American High School teachers, and their students interviewed and video taped East Germans as they broke through or climbed over the wall into West Germany. (3) The Berlin Airlift: German children were below the planes as they approached Tempelhof Airdrome. The crews frequently threw out candy, toys, and clothing to the children. Hence, the affectionate reference to the planes as "Candy Bombers." (4) Rochefort, France American High School Memorabilia and the constant involvement of the alumni association with the city and the reconstruction of the Hermione, LaFayette's frigate, that left Rochefort on March 10, 1780 en route to Boston to help the colonists fight the British. (5) The October 1962 Kennedy/Khruschev Missile Crisis: Women, children, and schoolteachers at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba were hurriedly put on the USS Upshur. Male teachers were assigned duties on board the ship, which disembarked the passengers in Norfolk, Virginia after sailing through Soviet submarine-infested waters. Not until just before Christmas were the women and children reunited with their fathers and husbands in Guantanamo Bay. (6) Operation Just Cause-the Invasion and Liberation of Panama from Manuel Noriega and his government: School was canceled, but the homes of students, and educators were in the battle zone. When the action got close to their thin-walled homes, the safest place to be was in the bathtub. (7) The Mt. Pinatubo Volcano in the Philippines: The schools at Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval Base were covered with a foot or more of volcanic ash and a teenage girl was killed at the Subic School when a roof collapsed. Other examples of exhibits could be: the highly successful Host Nation Culture Rooms in American elementary schools in Japan which contributed much to better Japanese/American relations; the mass closing of schools in Austria, France, Libya, and other countries; the operation of extremely isolated schools such as Goose Bay, Labrador and Midway Island, and incidents witnessed by American educators and students such as the Persian Gulf War, Tiananmen Square, and the recent bombing of American embassies in Africa. The AOSHS is interested in receiving other suggestions for exhibits in the Museum in Wichita.

MAIL D BOX

Ah yes, I remember it well...

James A. Berquist, a London Central H S student in the 1960's, recently shared his memories with Gail Kelly, longtime London Central HS art teacher, retired in London and Ann Bamberger, board member and long-time overseas teacher and administrator, retired in Scottsdale, Arizona. They hope you will enjoy James' letter as much as they did.

"The thoughts of England, Scotland, and Wales conjure up wonderful memories for those of us fortunate enough to have lived in the United Kingdom at one time or another. We were sent to a base or city with our families if we were students, or assigned to a particular school if we were teachers. One of the greatest advantages, of course, was that we spoke the language (almost!), and could read all the signs to easily get around-if one remembered to stay on the left side of the road while driving, and looked to the right before crossing. If you didn't, it could get a bit dicey. People and places change over the years, but our memories are our

link to the past."

"I REMEMBER our first rented house in London was a find. An Australian actor, Bill Kerr, went back to Australia for six months and we rented his mansion on South Hill Avenue, in South Harrow. You had to honk your horn so the gate keeper lady would let you pass. Sometimes she had flour on her hands, and she always gave you a big smile....we inherited the actor's dog with the deal and I had to walk him. I was shocked out of my shoes one day when a nice lady came up and asked if my dog was a bitch....our milkman made deliveries with his horse and cart....after six months, we moved to Meadow Road in Pinner, and Bill, the actor, remained our family friend for many years afterwards....in Pinner a man would pedal down the street with a ladder over his shoulder lighting the gas street lights....our milkman here delivered in an orange three-wheeled electric vehicle-it smelled better than that horse....swimming at the Ruislip Lido and at the pool in Harrow-on-the-Hill. The posted water temperature was 63 degrees in the middle of the summer. Now I don't go in the ocean until it's 72-and that's only two weeks a year!....playing in bombed-out buildings in Harrow Weald. One of the neighbors had a bomb shelter in his backyard....Wall's ice cream. I used to collect those banners that the sweet shops hung from their awnings.....my British slot car track. I was amazed to learn the company is still in business. My buddy Chris and I used to love racing each other. Here I am at fifty talking about my slot car....7 transistor radios with 9 volt batteries we all took to school when John Glenn went up. Every one was listening to every word while we were loading the buses at the end of the school day....Friday, November 22, 1963 when we were sitting down to dinner, hearing about the shooting of President Kennedy on the BBC. My Dad chaperoned at the teen club at West Ruislip that night, and we got word of JFK's death from an Air Policeman when we arrived at the front gate. My father closed the club down that night....going trick-or-treating on Halloween, having to walk to other American houses in search of candy, and feeling kind of stupid walking through the British neighborhood dressed as Davy Crockett....Guy Fawkes night, which I loved. My British friends always had a bonfire....TV didn't come on until 4 p.m. Just two channels-BBC and ITV. No point staying home sick from school. With only two channels you would think my sisters and I could have agreed on what to watch....leaving the teen club when it closed at 10:30 and taking the bus into Ruislip. We had a ten minute wait for the bus to Pinner and would buy fish and chips. To this day, I can't take vinegar on my fish....the fog days. We had to call South Ruislip, I think, to hear if the schools were closed. Did the teachers jump up and down like we did when we got the day off?....the smell of coal in the air. My chores included bringing in the coal, starting the water heater, taking out the ashes, and burning the trash using the embers....another chore was the laundry. We had the traditional wicker basket on wheels. It would follow behind quite well, even at high speeds. After the wash you had to put a penny in the extractor because British machines didn't have a spin cycle....I was always a nut for British cars, and my first car was a '59 Hillman Minx. I have also owned two Austin Healeys, and am now restoring a '62 Jaguar MK X."

"What memories I have. I have a map of England and a large tube (underground railway) map in my office. I

look forward to visiting the UK next year."

James, a retired FAA Air Traffic Controller, lives in Santee, California. <cLittle@Access1.Net>. Gail, notes that their milk is still delivered by electric cart, in glass bottles by a milkman who knows her by name. < Martha. Kelly@Virgin.Net>. Isn't it nice to know that some things never change?! Ann can be reached at <aBamberger@Juno.

REUNION NEWS

Report on Nürnberg Alumni Reunion at Breckenridge

By Terrence "TD" Jorgensen

Dr. Tom & Norma Drysdale, of the **AOSHS**, spearheaded the museum's fund-raising campaign with a visit to the **Nürnberg** (*American High School*) **Alumni Association's** tri-annual reunion, in Breckenridge, Colorado, June $17^{th} - 20^{th}$. **Jeri Polansky Glass**, president of the **Berlin** (*American High School Bears*) **Alumni Association**, who lives in Breckenridge, was the perfect hostess again, as she made available her and Chuck's studio apartment for

the Drysdales, to help ease their traveling costs, during their visit.

The **508**-Nürnberg Eagles in-attendance (who came from as far away as Korea, Japan, Denmark, and Germany) were able to be fully informed by Dr. Drysdale, **RE**: the 3-D architectural display model, on what the museum will eventually look like, once completed. The Nürnberg reunion attendees were the first, former DoDDS alumni group to actually see the combination model and VHS tape presentation, and hear first-hand from the museum's curator, what DoDDS alumni could expect during these developmental stages, through to completion. Dr. Drysdale, you made a most impressive and interesting spin of great things to come from you, Norma, and the staff of volunteer former teachers, administrators, and student alumni from the various schools, worldwide. **Congratulations!**

The long weekend of The Nürnberg Alumni Association's reunion was not only highlighted by the AOSHS presentation, but with a wonderfully relaxing, scenic, and friendly atmosphere in the village of Breckenridge, Colorado. Perennial 'Overseas Brats' supporter, Harry Damm, (Regional Sales Director, Premier Resort/Village Resorts) really goes the extra mile when arranging, and hosting 'Brat' reunions at the Beaver Run Resort &

Conference Center

All those visits by Harry, over the past 12 years, to <u>Joe Condrill's</u> 'Overseas Brats' gatherings as a major sponsor, appear to be finally paying off for him and his employer. <u>T.D. Jorgensen</u> is convinced "The Beav" is the best bargain in the central USA! <u>Berlin's & Frankfurt's</u> alumni groups must have thought so too, as they also went there this summer. If your alumni group is looking for a perfect environment in which to host your next reunion, T.D. <u>highly-recommends Harry's "Beaver Run Resort."</u> General Manager Joe Shackelton (another fellow MSU Spartan alumnus of T.D.'s) and his management and staff go out of their way to insure the minutia details, which are sure to please even the most demanding reunion planner. T.D. gives it two-thumbs-up! You will, too!

Nürnberg's weekend included a golf tournament, tennis outings, hot tub Jacuzzi soaking, mountain biking, sailing, white water rafting expeditions, horseback riding, hiking, motor touring within the beautifully-scenic Colorado

Rocky Mountains, and walkin'-and-shoppin' amongst 100's of retail stores throughout Breckenridge.

And, our evening highlights included the wonderful and professional talents of Bill & Sunny Schwentner (President, Kubasaki High's Alumni Association and owners of "SunnySoundSouth") who gave us a Karaoke and dancing session on Friday night, and listening and dancing music on Saturday night. They drove all the way out to Breckenridge from Orlando, Florida. Now THAT's dedication to their craft!

Finally, the Nürnberg alumni recently narrowed their 2002 reunion choices from seven cities to their *Top Three Cities*, and will send out a ballot during September, to find out which city will win the bid for their next reunion—Lake

Tahoe, San Diego, or Las Vegas.

DoDDS XI A Success

By Barbara and John Williams

DoDDS XI, a reunion of 425 attendees from as far away as the Pacific areas and Europe, was held July 4–7 at the U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego. It proved to be a successful event, bringing together DoDDS retirees, personnel still on duty overseas, and a number of former students. From the "after action" correspondence still being forwarded to us, everybody especially appreciated the charm of the historic hotel, its location and accessibility to San Diego harbor, Seaport Village, San Diego Zoo, Old Town, the Gaslamp Quarter, Coronado, and Mexico. Most frequently mentioned "bargain" and favorite way to explore the city was on the San Diego Trolley (the small "trolleybus" which provides a very comprehensive tour). Reunion attendees had an opportunity to view a large model of the Overseas Schools Historical Park and Museum (displayed in the Hospitality Room), and to hear of progress toward culmination of this very significant AOSHS project. Special thanks to some special people for helping to make **DoDDS XI** a success: **Joan Sprague** and **Sharon Everett** (San Diego tours and information); **Pam Redman**

(entertainment for Tuesday evening's banquet); **Frank Vahovich** (featured speaker on Tuesday evening); and **Tom and Norma Drysdale** (for continuing to provide focus and purpose to our annual reunions through **AOSHS**).

Following Tuesday morning's meeting of AOSHS a session was held for the purpose of voting on next year's reunion site. Boston will be the DoDDS XII location to be held approximately the second week of July. Barbara and John Williams will coordinate the event with the assistance of Alice Larson. DoDDS XIII, in 2001, will be held in Wichita, site of the Overseas Schools' Historical Park and Museum.

Looking forward to seeing you at DoDDS XII and XIII. - Barbara and John Williams, DoDDS XI Coordinators.

Madrid/Torrejón High School

By Sherry McCullough

The Sunburst Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona was recently the site of another fantastically rewarding reunion for any and all who attended the **Madrid/Torrejón High School** in Madrid, Spain. The event marked the eighth in a long line of successful reunions hosted by the student body since their beginning in 1975. Four days of fun, frolic, and phenomenal activities didn't quite do it for all involved. By the last day, every one was crying, "**Please! Just one more day!**"

There is no way to adequately express the feelings and thoughts of all who recaptured part of their youth during these momentous four days. What can be said was best stated by one of our own, Mr. John Dolan-Heitlinger,

"We experienced a homecoming, that we were once again in our own 'hometown'."

Only those of us who have attended an overseas school can know what it is like to return to the United States with a sense of humor and vision unappreciated by those who have never had the opportunity to experience life abroad. Upon reuniting with others with that same humor, that same vision, we indeed realize **our dream of 'coming home,'** and with that we become our own 'hometown.' What better way to live life than be with those who accept you for who you are, who don't really care what you do or whether you are tall, short, fat or thin, but care for you with unique insight and appreciation. No other reunion could fulfill that need for so many in so short of a time.

Dances every night, a pool party, photography sessions, an elegant dinner, and a tearful Sunday brunch were all part and parcel of the "Sleepless Knights" Reunion July 15th through July 18th. 550 students from 1959 through 1988, faculty members, and a few dedicated parents (still!) graced the lobby, hallways, and ALL the rooms of the Sunburst Resort during this time. **The faculty members were joyously received** by many of their former students and we even managed to get one of them out on the dance floor for two hours on Saturday night!

AOSHS also made a well-designed presentation of the new facility to be built in Wichita, Kansas to house all the memorabilia from all overseas schools. This knowledge was accepted with a great sigh of relief by all Madrid Knights. To know that now we will have somewhere to go to revisit our special memories and that they will be safeguarded down through the years provides perhaps another 'hometown' that we from Madrid can call our own. Hopefully all reunions any of your readers plan and/or attend will turn out as well as ours did!

Homecoming '99

The Celebration of the Century

More than 1,500 alumni from **DoD** and **Private International Schools** abroad attended the **Overseas Brats Homecoming '99 Celebration** at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dallas-Fort Worth Airport in Grapevine, Texas, August 5–8. A portion of the proceeds from "**Homecoming '99**," \$1,328.19 was donated during the banquet to **The AOS Historical Society** by **Joe Condrill, President of Overseas Brats** "... to assist in their efforts to create a historical park containing a museum, visitors center, and archive which showcases the American overseas schools heritage."

Linda Irvine, Founder of the Zweibruecken Germany Alumni Association and the Reunion Brat Company was the Organizer and General Manager of this very successful homecoming for the

alumni of 169 overseas schools.

At an AOSHS General Session, Joy Harper Bryant, Founder of the Jonathan Wainwright School Alumni Association, presented the Historical Society with a \$200.00 donation from Friends of AOSHS. At the Good-bye Breakfast on the last day, Kieran O'Dowd Downey, alumnus of Taipei HS and Morrison Academy in Taiwan, and Giessen Elementary School in Germany, and Co-Founder of Friends of AOSHS, went from table to table collecting pocket change, and presented the AOSHS with another gift of \$104.62.

Overseas Brats serves as an umbrella organization for more than 240 alumni groups representing more than 178 schools located in 56 foreign countries around the world. Each month Overseas Brats donates a percentage

of its income to the AOSHS.