



aoshs QUARTERLY



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR. GAYLE VAUGHN-WILES

Every year at this time, I write the President's message for the Spring *AOSHS Quarterly* and I give you a weather update from Crawford, Maine. I am usually in a blizzard, Nor'easter, weather advisory, or plain old snowstorm. The temperature is in single digits, and as I develop this message it is -2 degrees Fahrenheit... bitter cold. Believe me I have the furnace on as well as the 1917 Kineo wood stove providing heat in the kitchen and, if necessary, we may have to start the fireplace in the bedroom. What a winter, but this is Maine and we are warm and cozy in spite of the weather report.

This is a bittersweet season of my life. On a personal level, my husband, **Dean**, continues to decline in his condition of Alzheimer's. Although he is mobile and eats everything in sight, his mental abilities are extremely limited. I am saddened by the situation but "*It is what it is*"! I am providing the best possible care for my Maine man.

As you know, I am in the last year of my second term as President

of the AOSHS Board of Directors. There are many interesting things happening. The partnership with **DODEA** has enhanced our mission and we are very pleased with the support we have received from them. **Ron Harrison**, **Doug Kelsey**, and **Bob Germaine** protect our assets by projecting budgets, providing monthly accounting statements and validating financial rates. The renovation of our office and adjacent property has been completed. It will house our archival collections, office spaces, and a digital studio. Ron Harrison has been the operations manager and worked diligently on site to bring the project to fruition. The new furniture for the museum should arrive in March and the committee – **Linda Connelly**, **Nancy Bresell**, **Rebecca Dunn** and **Joel Hanson** – will work on site in April by placing furniture and arranging displays. Our contracted archivist, **Adam Gossman**, has been working with the archives and the committee by making recommendations for items to be displayed. One of our big initiatives dealt with yearbooks. Many people have donated or loaned us elementary, middle, and high school yearbooks to be scanned. **Kevin Frutiger**, our contracted digital specialist, says he will be scanning yearbooks for another year. Soon, all yearbooks within our library and

those loaned to us will be available for viewing on the website. The new website developed by the **Lee Media Group** with **Kelley Germaine** and Doug Kelsey is truly outstanding. **Pete Lundrigan**, who developed our previous site, works as a consultant to the group. Kevin Frutiger will also work with the group to troubleshoot and make recommended changes. Another contracted person, **Chris Limes**, has been hired to initiate our digital photography. He works closely with Kevin Frutiger and Adam Gossman.

Chris Kyrios, our Brats Rep, and **Monica Tiller** have worked on our Facebook sites. They essentially get information out through social media by alerting individuals and groups of AOSHS activities. Chris has been preparing for the **Tom Drysdale Scholarship**. He is currently notifying schools and sending information to counselors.

The Digital Memorial Program is a technological advancement currently being designed by **Jackie Kelly** and Kelley Germaine. This design will in slang terms "*Blow your mind*"!

There is so much going on, and excitement's in the air. Now you know why this season of my life is bittersweet.

AOSHS Museum Opening

LINDA CONNELLY

Those of you who have visited our AOSHS headquarters in Wichita, Kansas, are well aware of the thousands of items that have been entrusted to our organization in order to preserve our history. It's an amazing collection of items from around the world, wherever DoDDS (DoDEA) schools have been located. Until now, the donated items have been primarily housed on shelves and in hundreds of boxes. That's about to change...

I have been lucky enough to assist with sorting and inventorying a small number of those boxes. It is a daunting task and frankly, while working "in the boxes", it's incredibly easy to get sidetracked and to read, study, admire, and just LOOK at what our members have

donated to the AOSHS collection. There is everything from artwork to trophies, uniforms to photos, yearbooks to certificates, flags to hiking boots from **Hinterbrand Lodge**! It's truly incredible. Shortly we will have the space and appropriate furniture to set up displays of some of our memorabilia. The AOSHS plan is to periodically change the displays, so that more items can be enjoyed by those who visit the collection. Three dedicated and diligent contracted employees have worked non-stop cataloging and photographing our collection. Thanks to **Adam Grossman**, Archivist, and **Kevin Frutiger**, yearbook/digital specialist and **Chris Limes**, photographer, for their efforts to preserve our incredible history. Thanks to the

generosity of so many of our AOSHS members, we will be opening our long-awaited museum on **24 September 2020**. Due to physical space limitations, attendance at the event will be by invitation only. The collection will be open to the public beginning on **25 September 2020**. Opening hours will be shared through the *AOSHS Quarterly* as the time for our opening nears.

Our name will be "**AOSHS Museum and Archives**".

If you haven't been to the great city of Wichita, Kansas, plan a trip to the AOSHS headquarters to see YOUR "collection" after 24 September. You'll be both pleased and PROUD!

YEARBOOKS, PUBLICATIONS, ARTIFACTS & MEMORABILIA

DOUG KELSEY

AOSHS continues to seek donations of artifacts, memorabilia, publications and yearbooks from students that attended DoDDS schools and from teachers and administrators that worked in these schools. I would like to share with you a recent "good news" story of how AOSHS continues to complete the gaps in our archives.

Joel Hansen informed me that he had recently met **Pete Price**, a former principal in **Fulda**. As a result of their conversation, Pete sent me an email listing many yearbooks and publications he had. I went through his list to determine what was missing in the AOSHS archives. Pete then sent three boxes of materials to the AOSHS office in Wichita. Here are a few of the items he sent:

- 1) The 1986 Fulda HS yearbook, which enabled AOSHS to complete the entire Fulda HS collection from 1984 through 1994, except for 1993. (We hope someone will help us find the 1993 yearbook.)
- 2) The 1974 Zama HS yearbook, which enabled AOSHS to complete its Zama HS collection from 1963 through 2001. 1974 was the only edition missing during those years. (We hope someone will be able to donate 1960, 1962, 2002, 2005 to 2008, 2010 and all yearbooks after 2011.)
- 3) *SPARKS*, a publication of student writings from 1985 through 1988.
- 4) *FROM DSS TO DODDS*, a book that documents the evolution of DoDDS in commemoration of its 40th anniversary.

Continued On Page 3

As you know, AOSHS has over 2,000 yearbooks available on our website and will add an additional 1,000 soon. Efforts have begun to digitally photograph the memorabilia and artifacts in the archives and to make those photographs available on the AOSHS website. None of this is possible without your efforts to provide us your artifacts, memorabilia, publications and yearbooks.

Please help AOSHS accomplish our mission to have a comprehensive collection for these initiatives. Check your closets, your garages, your attics and your storage

areas to see what you might have that would be a valuable asset to the AOSHS archives. Also, please contact your friends and former colleagues to see if they can assist in these efforts.

Please send your items to: **AOSHS, 704 W. Douglas Ave., Wichita, KS 67203**. This is all that is necessary, if you would like to donate the items. If you prefer to loan them to us, all you need to do is enclose a note stating you would like them returned with your return address. For questions, please contact **Doug Kelsey** at **dskelsey@hotmail.com** or text him at **404-664-9128**.

DID YOU KNOW THERE WERE COMBINED YEARBOOKS PUBLISHED FROM 1949 - 1962? THE STORY OF ERINNERUNGEN AND VAPOR TRAILS

From 1949 to 1962, many schools combined efforts to produce a yearbook representing multiple locations. From 1949-1960, the Army schools in Germany and France published *Erinnerungen*. Beginning in 1952, the Air Force schools in England, France, Germany, Libya, Morocco and Turkey published *Vapor Trails* until 1962. You will find all fourteen (14) volumes of *Erinnerungen* and all six (6) volumes of *Vapor Trails* on the AOSHS website at **www.aoshs.org/collections/yearbooks/**.

These twenty (20) yearbooks represent more than forty (40) schools over a time period of more than ten (10) years. It is the equivalent of having two hundred five (205) yearbooks available to preserve the history of these schools during this time period.

In addition to these twenty (20) combined yearbooks, AOSHS currently has over two thousand (2000) more yearbooks online for the world to view. AOSHS is in the process of placing another one thousand (1000) yearbooks on our website. When this effort is completed, AOSHS will have more than three thousand (3000) yearbooks available on its website.

AOSHS still needs almost two thousand (2000) yearbooks to complete the collection in our archives. ***This is where we need your help!*** If you have any of the yearbooks AOSHS is missing or you have friends and colleagues that have these yearbooks, please help us obtain these valuable resources for our archives. We would prefer to have them donated to our archives, but we will also be more than happy to scan and return them to you. Please mail your yearbooks to: **AOSHS, 704**

W. Douglas Ave., Wichita, KS 67203. If you would like them returned to you, please enclose a note with your return address.

You may access the AOSHS website to see which yearbooks we are still missing from our collection. Go to "Collections" and then to "Yearbooks". Under the "Yearbooks" link, you will find an attachment entitled, "Yearbook Summary Inventory Spreadsheet". Eventually, you will be able to go directly to a school's name to check, but as mentioned previously, AOSHS still has one thousand yearbooks in our collection to scan.

If you have any questions, you may contact **Doug Kelsey** at **dskelsey@hotmail.com** or text him at **404-664-9128**.

ERINNERUNGEN (Combined Yearbooks - Army Schools in Germany from 1949 - 1960)														1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	9	9	9
	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	5	5	6	6
	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	9	9	0	0
	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	A	B	A	B	A	B	
GERMANY Part One																	
Augsburg HS									X	X	X	X	X		X		
Baumholder JHS							X										
Baumholder HS										X	X	X	X		X		
Berlin HS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Bremer Enclave/Bremerhaven	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Frankfurt HS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X

Continued On Page 4

ERINNERUNGEN (Combined Yearbooks - Army Schools in Germany from 1949 - 1960)										
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6
	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
									A	B
GERMANY Part Two										
Heidelberg HS (George W. Orford HS)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kaiserslautern HS					X	X	X	X	X	X
Karlsruhe HS									X	X
Mannheim HS								X	X	X
Munich HS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nuernbeg HS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stuttgart JHS		X	X	X	X					
Stuttgart JHS/HS					X	X	X	X	X	X
Wiesbaden HS (GEN H. H. Arnold HS)	X	X	X	X	X					
Wuerzburg JHS					X					
Wuerzburg HS						X	X	X	X	X

ERINNENRUNGEN (Combined Yearbooks - Army Schools in France from 1952 - 1960)										
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6
	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
									A	B
FRANCE										
Orleans HS					X	X	X	X	X	X
Paris HS				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Poiters HS									X	X
Rochefort HS					X	X	X	X		
Verdun HS									X	X

VAPOR TRAILS (Combined Yearbooks of Air Force Schools in England, France, Germany, Libya, Morocco and Turkey from 1957 - 1962)										
	1	1	1	1	1	1				
	9	9	9	9	9	9				
	5	5	5	6	6	6				
	7	8	9	0	1	2				
ENGLAND										
Brize Norton	X									
Bushy Park	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Burtonwood	X	X	X							
Lakenheath							X	X		
Mildenhall	X									
Molesworth	X									
Sculthorpe	X									
Wetherford	X									
Upper Heyford	X									
Greenham Common	X									
FRANCE										
Chateauroux	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Dreux	X						X	X		
Evreux	X									
Toul-Rosieres	X									
GERMANY										
Bitburg	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Hahn JHS	X									
Weisbaden HS (GEN H. H. Arnold)	X	X	X	X	X	X				
MOROCCO										
Nouasseur HS	X	X	X	X	X	X				
LIBYA										
Wheelus HS	X	X	X	X	X	X				
TURKEY										
Ankara	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Izmir	X	X	X	X	X	X				

AOSHS WEBSITE UPDATE

KELLEY GERMAINE

Upon viewing our website, it may seem like not a lot has changed. Looks can be deceiving. Our contract employee, **Kevin Frutiger**, has been very busy scanning and uploading yearbooks. Some have been yearbooks we already had but a lot of them have been either donated or loaned by members and friends of members. Each week there are numerous additions to our yearbooks online.

This aspect is important since our January 2020 website analytics show that the yearbook pages under Collections have been the most visited. These stats also show our website users increased 93%, and 63% of our page views were from mobile phones. We believe that some of this increased exposure is generated from social media. Please share our site with fellow members, friends and family using your Facebook account and other avenues.

The digital studio is operational, and work is being done. Our contract employees (**Kevin**, **Adam Gossman**, and **Chris Limes**) are in the process of discovering the best way to capture the images of the AOSHS artifacts and memorabilia. There is a lot of formatting and work that goes on. This is all in preparation for the board to review these pictures prior to placing on the website. These will eventually be accessible under the Collections section of the website.

Additionally, there is a place holder in Collections for the 'virtual museum' which will encompass some of these artifacts and memorabilia as well as the treasures on display in our exhibition hall.

We are glad to share this incredible progress that AOSHS has achieved and hope that you will be pleased with the outcome. Plus, there is a multitude of additional progress that we will share between now and later this summer.

So...don't miss any of it and visit our website frequently at www.aoshs.org!

MEMBERSHIP Update

JOEL HANSEN

Stories! It's all about the stories! Living overseas with my family created hundreds of Sicilian stories that we frequently share whenever we are together. I was reminiscing the other day about some events that took place during our ten years at **Sigonella**. It was always a treat to take visitors out to eat and one of our favorite ristoranti was **Trattoria Da Rinaldo's** in **Catania**. The first thing brought to the table was the water and the wine followed by a big basket of salsiccia and bread. Like my dad always said when I was growing up "take all you want but eat all you take!" I remembered that when I ate slice after slice of the different salsiccias. Now I crave the dried sausage that you can find in stores in the Midwest, but none compare to the salami picante that would be buried in the basket of meat at Rinaldo's. If there was enough room left in the stomach after the antipasti, it would be on to the primo, secondo, dolce, and cafe not to mention the digestivo at the end. We never went away hungry!!



countries in the world. AOSHS provides an opportunity to share these stories with others and put a smile on their faces. With the advent of the new exhibit space in Wichita (coming in September), yearbooks from DoDDS and USDSEA schools are being digitized and 3-D photos of the many artifacts that are streaming in to the shelves in the museum are becoming available to view. Former students, teachers, administrators and families will discover opportunities to relive their past. Hopefully, these will encourage them to take time to share more stories of their own.



We hope you will become a member of AOSHS. Your support will go a long way in expanding the vision set out by **Dr. Tom Drysdale** to collect and preserve memorabilia and historical documents of the overseas schools and create a place to store and exhibit them. Expanding our digitized process creates a virtual museum so that folks can see these memories from anywhere in the world. Your membership helps support the cause. Please consider joining AOSHS if you haven't done so already and tell others you know about our website at www.aoshs.org. Overseas schools have a rich heritage and a story that needs to be told. Help us to PASS IT ON!

We all have stories to tell of our experiences in far away lands and living with newfound friends in other

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO

DONATE

TO AOSHS

NANCY BRESELL

AOSHS wishes to recognize this quarter's donors who support the Archives and our Operating Fund. While membership fees are definitely the backbone of our funding, member donations are vital to carrying out and expanding the work of the Society.

The annual recognition program runs from the beginning of the current DoDDS Reunion (Reunion XXXI – July 17, 2019) to the beginning of the DoDDS Reunion the following year (Reunion XXXII – July 15, 2020). Donors within the Support Levels will have their names published in the *AOSHS Quarterly* the quarter that their donation was received, or if missed, the following newsletter. **All donors for the year will be recognized for a final time in our Fall issue**, and to all of you who found it in your hearts and pocketbooks to support the AOSHS mission, *we thank you*.

DONOR SUPPORT LEVELS

Supporters

Those who donate from \$25.00 to \$99.00

Friends

Those who donate from \$100.00 to \$249.00

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Those who donate \$2,000.00 or more

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REMEMBER, WE NEED
YOU!
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

AOSHS Memorial Program

JACKIE KELLY

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENTS

RUTH ANNA DISTIN

November 30, 1924 - June 21, 2015

(Her biography as told to her niece, Susan Elizabeth Jones)

Ruth Anna Distin was born November 30, 1924 on the family farm on Lovely Street in Avon, CT. She was the 2nd daughter of Robert Edward and Dora (Collins) Distin.

Her father followed in his father's footsteps as a dairy and vegetable farmer.

Before marrying Bob, Ruth's mother Dora worked as a teacher in Burlington and Avon, CT. Dora obtained her education from Willimantic Normal School, now Eastern CT State University.

Ruth enjoyed life on the farm and was somewhat of a tomboy. She loved fishing and playing with the family dog, Rascal. She was a middle child, sister Mary 2 years older, and sister Irene 2 years younger. Irene was a sickly child, developing juvenile diabetes in her teens. Ruth and Mary wound up doing most of the farm chores due to Irene's illness.

Ruth graduated from Canton High School in 1942, and CT Teacher's College in new Britain (now Central CT State University) in 1946. After graduation, she began her teaching career at Broad St. School and then Wheeler Elementary in Plainville, CT.



Her father Bob passed away in 1947 and her mother Dora in 1954.

After her mother passed, while teaching at Wheeler, a friend suggested she apply for an overseas teaching position. She was accepted after, in her words, "enduring much blood testing at Westover Air Base".

In August 1955, Ruth's aunt took her to the Hartford Railroad Station and put her on a train to Springfield, MA with a round top trunk. From there, she got into a sleeper compartment and left for Chicago. In Chicago, she spent a 5 ½-hour layover mostly exploring Marshall Field & Co., calling it "a stupendous place". The train then left on a 'bouncy and bumpy' ride to Seattle, where she had a 2-day layover.

On August 17, 1955, she boarded the ship MM Patrick (affectionately known as Mickey Mouse), headed for her first teaching position in Okinawa with new friend Billie Chandler, a group of Army soldiers, and their wives and kids. They all spent most of their time on the ship for the next two weeks playing bridge, arriving in Okinawa at the end of August. She and the other teachers were assigned to BOQs (Bachelors Office Quarters), 8 to a cube. Ruth started teaching 4th grade at Sukiran Army Base in September. She said one of the memorable trips she took in Okinawa was to the Ernie Pyle Memorial, a famous war correspondent killed by the Japanese during WWII.

Fortunately for her, sister Irene (Renie) and brother-in-law Harold Moriarty, were in Japan at the same time. Harold was stationed at an air base there. For Easter, 1956, she and friends flew to Japan for a visit with them.

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Prior to traveling to Okinawa, Ruth said she hadn't really traveled much. Other than a trip to Virginia and Pennsylvania touring Civil War sites with her friend Doris Disney and driving to Uncle Oak's funeral in Detroit with her parents and a cousin in her new Studebaker, that was about it. Her uncle Everett Distin was a very frequent traveler and she recollected that she probably got her travel bug from listening to his stories.

Ruth was in Okinawa for one year. During that year, she and a group of teachers took a Christmas trip to Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Macau. At the end of the school year, on June 23, 1956, she sailed back to the US from Tokyo to San Francisco via Hawaii.

Her next teaching assignment in 1956-57 was in Japan at Tachikawa Air Base, where she again taught 4th grade. She took her first big vacation trip that year to India, with a side trip to Burma. She told a story of having a reservation at a hotel in India, but the room was not available when they arrived. It turned out Benny Goodman took their room! She never met him but did hear him play in the hotel.

After one year in Japan, her next assignment was to Tripoli, Libya, at Wheelus AFB for the 1957-58 school year. That year, she and her friends took a trip to the Atlas Mountains, Egypt, Syria, Jerusalem, Greece, Turkey, Jordan, and then to Israel. She said that was the coldest place she had ever been because of all the stone. At her hotel, the restrooms were toilets hung over a trench.

Her first taste of Spain came in that '57-'58 school year when she went to Madrid and then France with friend Phyllis Connors over Easter vacation.

After spending one year in Tripoli, she transferred to Wiesbaden, Germany for the 1958- 59 school year. It was there that she met her lifelong friend Betty Richey

from Rapid City, South Dakota. Ruth bought a Renault car that year and brought it home to CT, signing it over to cousins Dick & Helen Caldwell.

Ruth spent the next two years in Wiesbaden. While there, she bought another car, "Isabel", a German made Borgward Isabella. That car made a lot of trips! Almost every weekend she and her friends went somewhere in 'Izzy'.

She met fellow teacher and lifelong friend Jean Larson in Germany, while on a trip to Africa in 1959. She also met Billie McLellan, along with a lot of other 'characters' as she put it.

Every Christmas she traveled with a group of 26-28 other teachers. She got really sick once while in Turkey and went to bed with a bottle of scotch to cure her. When she returned to the base and saw a doctor, they determined she had tuberculosis. Then they decided she didn't, but they kept her out of school for a while anyway.

In 1960, Ruth transferred to Madrid, Spain because in her words, "it was better than Wiesbaden". Jean Larson transferred to Spain from Germany the following year, and another lifelong friend, Graciela Gutierrez, arrived in 1968 with a whole new crop of teachers.

Ruth remained in Madrid at Torrejon Air Base teaching elementary school students for the next 30 years until she retired in 1990 to Bradenton, Florida. She never married or had any children, but was adored by her 2 nephews and 3 nieces, her sister Mary's children. She came home to Connecticut to visit in summer every odd year, and it was a big event for us all when we heard she was coming home!

She passed away on June 21, 2015 in Bradenton at age 90.



SECOND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Vernon Koholt's account was open July 2019. His sponsor is Glynn Turquand. There is currently \$25.00 in Vernon's account donated by Glynn Turquand.

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SECOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don Devona now has \$25.00 in his account. This account was also opened in July 2019. The initial donation was made by Glynn Turquand who is also the account sponsor.

Kay Nissen's memorial is sponsored by Glynn Turquand as well. The account was opened July 2019 and currently has \$25.00 in it donated by Glynn.

Rita Well's account was opened July 2019. Roxanne Ferry is the current sponsor. Donations from Roxanne and Ruth Herrman bring the total to \$50.00.

Fred Drath's memorial account was opened September 2019. Glynn Turquand is the sponsor and the account now totals \$25.00.

CLOSED ACCOUNTS

The memorial account for **Linda Herbert Sekiguchi**, sponsored by Linda Nary is now closed. The total for this account is \$160.00 with donations from Linda Nary, Carole Worby and Rosemary Carlsen.

COMMEMORATIVE TILE PROGRAM

We have **44** tiles available for sale in assorted sizes:

15 4"x8" Red Quarry Tiles	\$100.00
16 8"x8" Beige Quarry Tiles	\$250.00
12 8"x8" Polished Granite Tiles	\$500.00
1 18"x18" Polished Granite Tiles	\$2,500.00

Once these remaining physical tiles have been sold, the Memorials page on our new website will then feature our new digital commemorations.

Please visit our website at www.aoshs.org for more information.

ESTATE PLANNING

FUNDING YOUR TRUST IS IMPORTANT

So is Adding New Assets to the Trust

Excerpted by Kay Galloway from "Your Estate Matters", by Attorney Daniel DeBrucykere, a member of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys.

Setting up a trust may seem like a big step, however it's only the first step towards effectively utilizing this powerful estate planning tool. In short, a trust isn't particularly helpful if you don't fund it. (Just ask Michael Jackson's heirs. He created a trust but failed to fund it.)

Funding a trust means transferring certain assets to the trust by changing the ownership of those assets to the name of the trust. (This may include beneficiary designations as well.) Then the trustee of the trust controls those assets; in many cases you can name

yourself as the trustee. Funding the trust allows the assets in the trust to avoid the delays and lack of confidentiality inherent in the probate process on certain assets.

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If you create a trust and fail to transfer ownership of assets to that trust, neither you nor your heirs reap the benefits.

The same holds true for new assets you acquire. While a Pour-Over

Will can transfer ownership of new assets to your trust upon your death those assets would still be subject to probate. A better approach is to take title of a new asset under the trust's name and not your own. That way your estate plan remains up-to-date,

and those new assets are afforded the same protection and estate planning benefits a trust affords.

Don't forget that the best kind of trust is a funded trust.



BERLIN AIRLIFT VETERANS ASSOCIATION VISITS WICHITA

RON HARRISON

In September, the **Berlin Airlift Veterans Association (BAVA)** held their annual reunion in Wichita. Two of the main draws for their decision to come to Wichita were the AOSHS Berlin Airlift exhibit in the **Museum of World Treasures** that AOSHS provided, and the



Viewing AOSHS's section of the Berlin Wall that was donated to AOSHS by the Berlin Brats Alumni Association and which is on permanent display at the Museum of World Treasures.

very nice **Wichita Veterans Memorial Park** along the Arkansas River. AOSHS was honored to be recognized at the luncheon at the Museum of World Treasures which began with a tour of the museum by the visitors, ending with the AOSHS Airlift exhibit as their last stop. During the luncheon, seven veterans were highlighted and the audience of over 70 people had an opportunity to ask them questions about their experiences during the airlift. Most of the veterans were over 90 years old and had a lot of very interesting stories to tell.



Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen, RET, with his daughter, Denise Halvorsen Williams at the AOSHS Exhibit, "All Are Not Free".

The most noted veteran was **Col. Gail Halvorsen, RET**, the "Candy Bomber". He had noticed a large gathering of kids at the end of the runway at Tempelhof in 1948 and he went out to talk to them. The only thing that they wanted during this tough time was candy. He told them to watch for him to land on his next flight and he would drop candy from the airplane as it lands. His reputation grew and he received over 20 tons of candy from the States during that time. When I was stationed at Tempelhof from '69-'72, Col Halvorsen was my base commander. Two of his children were students at **Berlin American High School**.

Also during the luncheon, two former girls from the airlift era in Berlin talked of their experiences growing

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Ron Harrison with Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen.

up in the turmoil of the airlift. Both were very grateful to the U.S. Services for helping secure their freedom and they were very grateful to be current citizens of the United States. One even was lucky enough to have received one of the candy parachutes.

From the museum luncheon, the group proceeded to the Wichita Veterans Memorial Park to present the city with a monument to the Berlin Airlift.



The new BAVA Memorial in Wichita, Kansas.



I was then honored to be able to take Col. Halvorsen and his daughter **Denise Halvorsen Williams** to the AOSHS headquarters to show them our archives and the work that we have been doing to create the new **AOSHS Museum and Archives**. They were very impressed with the work we have done to preserve the history of the overseas schools.



The main comment from the day was the praise we received for the Airlift exhibit, which is called "**All Are Not Free**" (See our article about the exhibit on page 22 in the Fall 2017 issue of the *AOSHS Quarterly* located on our website at www.aoshs.org). The president of

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BAVA, Major Ray Roberts, RET, said this exhibit was much better than the one at the **National Museum of the United States Air Force** located near Dayton, Ohio. That was quite a compliment for the work by our staff and the staff at the Museum of World Treasures. The head of the museum also commented that this was the best day that the museum had ever had. The BAVA group was so impressed that their reunion will be returning to Wichita this coming September. The reunion and our AOSHS Open House will be during the same week, so plan to come to Wichita and make a week out of it!

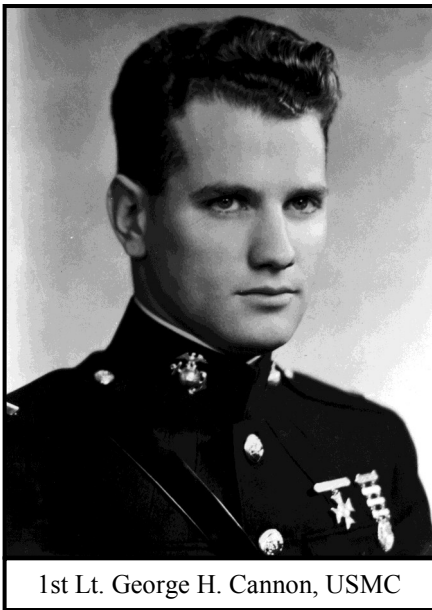


MIDWAY ISLANDS

GEORGE CANNON SCHOOL ON MIDWAY ISLAND

REBECCA DUNN

Midway was first discovered in **1859** by **Master N. C. Brooks** who named the two land masses **Brook Islands**. The islands became **U.S. territories under the Guano Island Act of 1856** when **Captain William Reynolds** formally took possession of the islands in **1876**. The atoll became the first land to be



1st Lt. George H. Cannon, USMC

Hawaii. After use by a company laying the Pacific Cable and by Pan American Airways, the first **Naval Air Station** was completed in **1941**. On **December 7, 1941**, **1st Lt. George H. Cannon** was killed defending the island from attack by Japanese cruisers and destroyers. Lt. Cannon became the first marine to earn the **Medal of Honor** and the dependent school was named for him.

In **September 1946**, the Midway Island Dependent School was opened for grades one through

eight. The name was changed to the **George Cannon School** in **1956**.

The original school was located in a Pan American Airways house. The final school consisted of 16 classrooms, a science lab, home economics room, auditorium, library, reading center and supply room. It served 250-275 students. High school courses were offered by correspondence until 1960 when the school expanded to include all grades. Students had the opportunity to study oceanography, scuba diving, fishing, water skiing,



George Cannon School on Midway Atoll in 1959.

annexed by the US outside its continental shores. The two islands were named Sand and Eastern and are located northwest of Honolulu,

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seashells and many forms of wildlife. Even the primary students knew the Commanding Officer since he was referred to as “the man with the car”. Only ten cars were located on the island and everyone else walked or rode bicycles. The senior class ranged in size from one to eight students. In 1971, the school was used for University of Hawaii classes. Single teachers lived in a BOQ while families were housed in military quarters located within walking distance of the school. Since

Midway was a hardship area, teachers were given at least two R&R flights to Honolulu each year and received a salary differential. July 15, 1978, the Navy withdrew all dependents from Midway Island, and the school was officially closed. The headline in the 1978 *Pacifica* read, “GEORGE CANNON SCHOOL, MIDWAY ISLAND, IS RETURNED TO THE ALBATROSS, AS THE STAFF AND STUDENTS MOVE AFTER 32 YEARS.”

Source DoDDS-Pacific Region, 1946-1986

MEMORIES FROM A GEORGE CANNON STUDENT

Robert W. Fore

My family lived on Midway from October 1959 thru December 1961. I attended **George Cannon School** in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. My teachers were: 3rd grade **Mrs. Childs**, 4th grade **Mrs. Sheets**, 5th grade **Mr. Bola**. I will never forget my experiences on Midway and it still remains on my mind!

In 1960, the Island experienced a tidal wave generated from the huge earthquake in Chili. We got out of school early, the 'wave' hit the island around midnight.

The big thing at school was marbles...huge marble games were played in the school yard with BIG stakes. Also, tetherball. School work was a lot harder than Stateside with an average of 3-4 hours of homework at night.

There was no television, only radio. Teachers were either dependent women with teaching degrees (Mrs. Childs and Mrs. Sheets) or DoD teachers (Mr. Bola). The standards for teachers were high. Single teachers lived at the BOQ and had Officer's club privileges.

When I returned to the States in early 1962 in the middle of 5th grade to California, those kids were a year behind us in math and reading skills. Also, kids on Midway were in far better physical shape than stateside kids; you rarely saw a fat child. There were no cars; you either rode your 'horse', bicycle or walked.

The school graduated its first high school class in 1959. There was no summer school, all the teachers left for the states at the end of the school year. The baby boom was

in full swing and classes were full, around 30 students per school. Discipline was no problem; if a child got into any serious trouble, their Father wound up in front of the base CO. I don't remember any corporal punishments, although it was possible.

School started at 8 am and secured at 4 pm I recall with an hour off for lunch; there was no cafeteria; you went home for lunch. In the summer there was swimming, little league baseball and scouts. The base ran movies during the week at 6 pm and 8 pm. In the summer there were daily matinees. The base theatre in summer was air conditioned to within an inch of your life; many of us wore jackets and sweaters!

Sailors would make mascots out of us sometimes, and one of my favorite pastimes was to ride the shuttle bus as it made a circuit of the island. The bus was generally driven by a young sailor, and they would tell you the story of their life. A big thing was to go down to the piers when ships came in and they would give you all the ice cream you could eat!

When we left Midway in late December 1961 and returned to the States, I experienced severe culture shock. I was a real hick compared to the kids in San Diego, although in better shape and more academically advanced.

When I was a sophomore in high school in 1967, I ran across a girl who was in my 4th grade class; and we really tripped down memory lane!



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The AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (AOSHS)

AOSHS is a Kansas non-profit organization that collects, records, preserves, exhibits, and provides research opportunity about historical memorabilia of the American overseas schools. Members promote global knowledge and understanding of this unique endeavor, thus adding a critical chapter to the history of American education.

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

AOSHS MEMBERSHIP is \$25.00 annually and includes four issues of the newsletter. Two years for \$45.00. To join, send dues to AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104. A membership application form is provided elsewhere in this newsletter for your convenience.

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