

# AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**Book 1**

# Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Attending American School Overseas	3
Department of Defense Dependents Schools	4
Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools	7
American Supported Overseas Schools	8
From American Overseas Schools Archives to American Overseas Schools Historical Society	9
Dr. Thomas Drysdale and the Growth of American Overseas Schools Historical Society	13
Why Wichita?	16
Endorsements	19
Chronology	23
Appendices	31

The information in these books is the most accurate and most current information for which AOSHS has documentation or has been told to date. AOSHS is continuously searching for documentation that would expand the knowledge base and increase the accuracy of the historical information in these books.

## ATTENDING AMERICAN SCHOOLS OVERSEAS

When American families receive a military commitment or a civilian receives a job offer for an assignment to a foreign country, some of their first questions are where their children will go to school, are schools in English, will the children be at grade level when they return? School is one of their greatest concerns.

While located in a foreign nation, one of the most, if not the most important ingredient for a family is the school. If the school does not adequately meet the needs of the children, it will have a negative effect on the parents. This can be a major detriment to their assignment, the enjoyment of each family member, and the success of their tour of duty.



The educators who went overseas were adventuresome, interested in other cultures, and willing to face challenges in a foreign country. They brought creativity to the classroom, often in substandard facilities with minimal materials, making the educational program successful. They and their students became aware of the richness of the differing cultures in which they were living. Both the educators' and the students' outlooks were broadened by these unforgettable experiences.

Fortunately, this concept has been acknowledged by the United States Government, International Educational Agencies, and most International Corporations. American Overseas Schools have consistently improved since their inception. The success of any school located anywhere, however, is based on the dedication and attitude of the teachers. Good teachers will make a good school. A good school will make a happy family.

# **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS**

## **DODDS**

In 1821, Congress enacted into law General Winfield Scott's Army Regulations for Financial Support, Administration of Library Services, Education of Children, Music, and Disability Benefits on Military Posts. Congress withdrew approval of the regulations in 1822, but President Monroe authorized their immediate reinstatement. Schools on military posts operated for the next 75 years under these provisions. In fact, schools were provided on some military posts before they appeared in many frontier communities.

The status of schools for government dependents changed through the years. In 1838, Congress legislated that Army chaplains were to perform the duties of schoolmaster at the posts. The first known U.S. Congressional funded school in a foreign country was located in Mexico City at the end of the U.S. Civil War. In 1878, the War Department issued a general order for a program to be instituted for the operation of schools for children on military posts. Following the 1898 Spanish-American War, post schools for children had no legal status and received no financial support. In 1905 by a general order, schools were again established as separate institutions; but, were later ruled extralegal by the Judge Advocate General in 1913.

After World War I, Congress again supported post schools, but that support was discontinued in 1922, and the schools were then financed by post recreation funds and contributions. In 1925, the Judge Advocate General ruled that government buildings could be used for the schools provided the schools did not interfere with the intended use of the buildings. In 1926, the authorization was given to use post recreations funds to pay the tuition of enlisted men's children. Between the World Wars, recreation funds, contributions, and Post Exchange profits were the main sources of revenue for the schooling of minor dependents of military personnel who did not have access to public schools.

Following World War II, there was no precedent to follow for establishing and operating a dependents school in foreign occupied countries. Initially, parents organized small schools overseas. Then, in 1946, in the occupied countries of Germany, Austria and Japan, dependents schools, on and off military installations, were established and operated by the Department of the Army. Enrollment in these schools grew rapidly, and by the end of the 1946-47 school year, enrollment totaled 2,992. By 1949, the number of schools approached 100, and soon school systems were being operated separately by the three U.S. military departments (Army, Navy, Air Force) in countries around the world.

For the first twenty plus years following World War II, two contradicting events occurred. The first was the closure of most one- and two-room schools that had been created for a small contingent of military personnel in the outlying areas of many occupied nations.

In contrast, there were a multiple number of major reasons for a massive increase of U.S. military being assigned to foreign countries: the Korean War, the threats of the Cold War, the Berlin Wall, Vietnam, etc.

In 1964, the Secretary of Defense combined the three separate school systems into the Department of Defense Overseas Dependents School System. The worldwide system was divided into three geographic areas with the Army operating all schools in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East; the Air Force operating all schools in the Pacific (Japan, Okinawa, Taiwan, Philippines, Korea and Midway Island); and the Navy operating all schools in the Atlantic (Iceland, Labrador, Newfoundland, Bermuda, Eleuthera Island, Antigua, Trinidad, and Cuba). Fifty percent of all the schools were located in Germany. Total management of this program was invested in a newly established office in the Pentagon, the Office of Overseas Dependents Education, responsible to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. DoDDS reached its peak in the late 1960's with over 600 elementary and secondary schools and 160,000 students in 41 countries.

Many dependents of military personnel assigned to U.S. embassies around the world also attended local private American community schools or international schools supported and assisted by the U.S. Department of State. Enrollment of Department of Defense dependents in these private schools exceeded 20,000 annually.

Major events which created the immediate movement of military personnel, families, and educators took place in 1967 as the French government asked the U.S. military to leave, and in 1970, when the government of Libya severed relations with the United States.

The Vietnam War ended in the Pacific theatre in 1975. In 1976, a Joint House-Senate Conference Committee Report informed the three military departments that the Department of Defense was taking over the operation of the military dependents' schools and, as a consequence, all military department school personnel were soon converted to DoD civilian status. Total management of this program was then invested in a newly established office in the Pentagon, the Office of Overseas Dependents Education, which was responsible to the deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

By 1979, the name had been changed to the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS). The three geographic areas—Europe, Atlantic and Pacific—were reconfigured. Replacing them were six new geographic regions: Atlantic, Germany North, Germany South, Mediterranean, Panama and Pacific, each with a regional director and several district superintendents, except Panama, which was a combined region/district. In 1981, the Germany North and Germany South regions were combined into a single Germany region.

The end of the Cold War in 1989 in Europe gave course for a major reduction of U.S. Forces in each area and the closures of many military bases. In 1990, the eruption of Mt.

Pinatubo on Luzon Island in the Philippines prompted the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the islands and the closing of all DoDDS schools there. In 1995-96, of the 80,577 K-12 students in DoDDS, 66% were in elementary grades, 14% in middle schools, and 18% in high schools. Another 3,700 special education, non-DoD, preschool, and postsecondary students also were being served.

In 1996, partially because of reduced enrollment, DoDDS was combined with the U.S.-based Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) into the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). Previously, these military department dependent schools within the United States and in the U.S. territories, were referred to as Section 6 Schools (Section 6 of Public Law 81-874.) Of the 29,269 K-12 students in all DDESS schools, 79% were elementary, 12% middle school, and 9% high school, with another 2,472 in special education, non-DoD, preschools, and postsecondary education. Comparative costs per pupil in 1996-97 were \$6,730 in typical U.S. public schools, \$8,714 in DoDDS, and \$7,803 in DDESS.

In 1997-98, DoDDS had approximately 80,000 in Bahrain (1 school), Belgium (4), Cuba (2), England (10), Germany (79), Iceland (2), Italy (13), Japan (28), Korea (7), the Netherlands (3), Panama (8), Portugal (2), Scotland (1), Spain (3), and Turkey (4). These schools were reorganized again into two geographic areas: Europe and the Pacific, plus one coterminous area/district in Panama. The schools in the Panama Canal Zone were closed in 1999.

The same pattern reducing U.S. Forces stationed overseas had continued into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In 2005, an unexpected number of ten additional schools were designated for closure. As of September 30, 2006, enrollment in DoDEA was as follows: Pacific 23,719, Europe 29,079, for a DoDDS total of 62,798. Additionally, DDESS had 26,292 for a grand total of 87,090.

An interesting aside is that since the late 1950's, all military dependent high schools and, since the late 1970's, all elementary and middle schools have been accredited by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges. This is a record not matched by any of the 20 states in the North Central Region.

No medals, no recognition has ever been given to the heroes of DoDDS. Who are the heroes? Those educators who accepted assignments to foreign countries prior to the mid-1950's, taught in isolated areas, had a minimum of supplies in sub-standard schools and housing facilities, those who were evacuated on short notice for various reasons and not aware of where they would be assigned the following school year, those teachers in areas where the enrollment skyrocketed to large class size without prior knowledge and caused double sessions, individuals who gave of themselves and learned to overcome adversity, yet always placed their students as their first priority, and the backbone of DoDDS and are saluted as heroes of DoDDS.

## **DOMESTIC DEPENDENT ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS DDESS**

The War Department was the first division of the Federal Government to recognize the need for public schools for military dependents. In 1821, Congress approved Major General Winfield Scott's proposal for educating the children of soldiers on isolated military posts. From this modest beginning, overseen by chaplains and initially funded by sharing profits from the Sutler—the grandfather of the commissary, PX and Class 6 stores, the Department of Defense school system has grown to be funded by Congress. One section of this globe-circling system is the Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) which administered seventy dependents' schools in the United States, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Although most military children in the U.S., both on and off post, attend local public schools, there remain locations where state laws and economic conditions make a case for Federal schools. Beginning with military posts on the Western frontiers, with still-to-be-formed public school districts, down to Southern segregated schools, which the Department of Defense (DoD) ruled unsuitable, there continues to be locations today where DoD provides schools due to the limited resources of local districts or because state laws ban the use of state money on federal property.

As varied as the conditions of these special schools have been, they have been administered in a variety of ways. In the beginning, the military departments decentralized educational programs, leaving funding and administration to the initiative of local commanders and parents. To raise quality and uniformity oversight increasingly developed at the departmental level through the years, but funding questions persisted as Congress questioned the role of schools in the mission of defense.

In the early 1950's, two public laws were enacted (PL81-815 and PL 81-874) which approved the building of school facilities on Federal property with the funding of school operations through the budget of the U.S. Office of Education. It was Section 6 of PL 81-874, which provided the procedure for the operating funds, thus the name Section Six Schools. The military departments continued to be responsible for the operation of these programs until Congress unified the administration within the Department of Defense with the overseas Department of Defense Dependents Education Activity (DoDEA) program.

## **AMERICAN SUPPORTED OVERSEAS SCHOOLS**

The origin, evolution and development of American education in foreign countries during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, is a remarkable human and educational success story. It is a rich heritage of which coming generations should not, and with the American Overseas Schools Historical Society Archives, will not be deprived.

The history of American public schools for United States citizens living abroad dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Two of the earliest were founded in Mexico City and in Tokyo. Most schools were private, community-owned, or ventures of parents living in concentrated areas. Their creation was primarily due to the language barrier and the desire for their dependents to remain at the level of the stateside counterparts.

The growth of these schools was very slow prior to World War II. Limited to only such areas where American capital had developed industrial or commercial enterprises, by missionaries, and diplomatic corps.

Following World War II, there were a number of events which contributed to a rapid growth of American schools located abroad: the United States continued to maintain military bases around the world and the government allowed family members to join military personnel overseas in 1946; the breakup of European colonial empires and the development of new nations; United States foreign policies designed to protect weaker countries; U.S. government agencies such as the Agency for International Development and the U.S. Information Agency; and science, technology and increased international relations. These developments and other changes contributed immeasurably to proportions undreamed of a generation before.

These schools have been supported by the Departments of Defense and State, other agencies of the U.S. Government, private institutions and various corporations. Reciprocally, through tuition, U.S. military students have attended American supported overseas schools as non-military students have attended Department of Defense Dependents Schools



## **FROM AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS ARCHIVES TO AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

In the past fifty years there have been millions of DoDDS students and educators with memories of their lives overseas including lifetime friendships, trips to foreign lands, new languages, cultures, and lifestyles. All have stories that they love to tell. Many have written pieces about their experiences overseas; however, these attempts have only touched the tip of the iceberg. From 1946 to 1989, no attempt was made to record the history, growth and success of this program.

The goal of AOSHS is to collect, as much as possible, these experiences through the development of an archives, museum, library, and memories. A tremendous amount of history has already been lost, never to be regained. Hopefully, with the help of “brats” and educators, this task will be accomplished. If we don’t do it, who will?

Prior to his retirement as Director of the Atlantic Region, Dr. Thomas Drysdale researched this issue and found that everyone contacted was in agreement that, yes, there should be an archive and a museum. As an adjunct professor at Northern Arizona University (NAU), Drysdale received the support he was seeking from Dr. Eugene Hughes, President of NAU. He also received encouragement from Dr. John Stremple, Director of DoDDS, and endorsements from national educational organizations needed to open the American Overseas Schools Archives on the NAU campus at Flagstaff, AZ in 1989. An office and a large storeroom were provided. In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Drysdale opened the office for business with the help of volunteer students and retired DoDDS personnel. In 1993, AOSA held its first membership meeting at ODDSARA V in Flagstaff.

In 1995, the American Overseas Schools Historical Society was established with Dr. Drysdale as president. A year later, AOSHS was incorporated as a non-profit organization by the Arizona Corporation Commission, and the overseas archives became a reality.

Due to the closure of military bases primarily in Europe, Dr. Stremple, Director of DoDDS, issued permission for schools to send memorabilia to the archives at government expense. The memorabilia received exceeded the storage space available. A notice was sent world-wide to halt sending memorabilia to Flagstaff until more space was made available. Due to an increase in enrollment at the University and the departure of Dr. Hughes, support for additional storage space was no longer available. The new president requested that the Archives be removed from the University. An agreement was made that if the contents of the Archives could be moved in ninety days, the University would pay for the transportation to any location in the state of Arizona. The decision was accepted and all memorabilia was moved to Dr. Drysdale’s residence in Goodyear, Arizona, in 1996. The

moratorium on memorabilia was lifted. Within three years, the Drysdale's three-car garage, basement, patio and storage sheds in his yard were at capacity.

In 1997, a letter campaign to nineteen major cities in the United States was mailed requesting interest in relocating the Archives. Seven cities responded and a committee was formed to select the top three. The committee then made onsite location visits to three cities (West Phoenix, Orlando, and Wichita). Wichita was accepted by unanimous decision as the relocation area. The city had five locations available for the committee to visit.

Wichita's presentation exceeded all expectations. Five acres of land located at the center of the Wichita's Museum on the River complex was selected. Knowing that funds were not available at the time, they also provided a one-story brick building available for immediate occupancy in 1997. The only expense was for utilities. In early 1999, 33,000 pounds of memorabilia was transported to Wichita. No visitors could be accepted and no displays could be maintained. In the year 2000, the city requested that they be allowed to use the front offices as a police substation. This request was readily accepted as it provided security to the building and its contents. The city paid for all utilities. In 2001, a Site Dedication ceremony was held at the DoDDS/AOSHS reunion in Wichita with more than 900 in attendance.

After seven years as President, Dr. Drysdale resigned to devote his energy to the archives and to securing Federal funding. Dr. Ann Bamberger was elected the second President of AOSHS.

The city of Wichita in 2003 condemned the AOSHS storage building. Once again, 50,000 pounds of memorabilia was moved at AOSHS expense to three rented climate-controlled storage units. The AOSHS office was relocated to Dr. Drysdale's basement at his home in Wichita. The office was relocated again in 2004 to a rented facility in West Wichita. This building provided space for processing material and an Archive Associate was employed half-time for office duties. A joint proposal from Wichita, the State of Kansas and AOSHS was submitted to the United States Congress requesting funds to construct a permanent location for the archives in the Museums on the River area of the city.

In May 2004, AOSHS rented a facility in Wichita that provided space for an office, workroom, and small display area. Two large climate-controlled storage areas continued to be used for the 50,000 pounds of memorabilia then in possession. A half-time Archive Associate was employed.

A building in the Delano district of Wichita was purchased in 2005. One section of 3,200 sq. ft. provided adequate space for an office, small display area, work processing area, and archive storage. The additional 3,000 sq. ft. was leased to generate additional funds until that time when more space was needed by AOSHS. The services of a professional fundraiser were engaged for fund-raising in the private sector. A brokerage account

was opened to accept donations of stock, bonds, and other investments. AOSHS signed a Memorandum of Agreement with DoDEA to support AOSHS efforts in schools currently operating.

During 2005, a list of 11 priority items was created by the Board to focus our work with AOSHS. Mailing addresses were reduced to include only three addresses for all of our official business. In 2006, DS Instruction 4160.1 between AOSHS and DoDEA was revised.

Richard Bradford, an outside consultant used to explore our fundraising capacity, presented recommendations to the Board to consider for our future. We have used this document to consider an Advisory Board Chairperson to create an Advisory Board. This person, Jackie Grey, will also explore increasing our membership, seeking outside funds to increase our endowment fund, and also explore a location to install our Bricks, Blocks, and Pavers program. Patricia Hein accepted a position as Secretary of AOSHS Board.

A Memorandum of Agreement was formed between the Museum of World Treasures in Wichita and AOSHS.

February of 2007 saw a membership/fundraising DVD being produced and distributed to all overseas high schools, district regional office, and all DoDDS and DDESS headquarters personnel. It was also given to alumni organizations and other institutions to create interest in donating and/or supporting/joining AOSHS.

AOSHS and DoDEA partnered in updating DS Instruction 4160.1 (How schools send artifacts to our Wichita, KS, office). Together, they created a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video to be presented at the end of the 2006 calendar year.

The DVD documentary, *BRATS: Our Journey Home*, used material from the archives. In addition, the History Channel used materials for a presentation on a DoDDS student, Shaq O'Neil.

The hours of our Archive Manager were increased in 2006 and she completed processing of all yearbooks received to date.

Several individuals and organizations have borrowed materials from the archives for research and presentation purposes. One such individual was a graduate student from Wurzburg, Germany.

AOSHS has entered into an agreement with the Museum of World Treasures to exhibit our large and high valued artifacts. Two items include a 4½ ton section of the Berlin Wall and a replica of a 15<sup>th</sup> century German knight.

We continued to receive items from closing DoDDS schools and from educators, alumni, and students who were educated or taught overseas.

In 2006, the Archives/Museum/Office saw a number of improvements, which included: a new roof, office design, painted walls and more efficient areas for receiving, cataloging, storing, and recovery of the increased memorabilia that had been received to date. We have a new tenant with a three-year lease in our rental portion. The unexpected closure of ten schools in June caused the receipt of institutional artifacts from each of those schools. A software program was purchased to enhance the processing and cataloging of the archive collection. The website now includes an interactive component.

The Archives were discovered and there was an increase in the number of individuals coming for research. All yearbooks were catalogued, shelved, and made available for visitors. The increased workload required the hours of the Archive Manager to be increased. Additionally, duties were assigned to an Operations Manager and an Advisory Council Chairperson.

In 2018, Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) and American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) collaborated to pursue their common goals of preserving the history of the school systems that have educated the overseas children of American military service members and DOD civilians for more than seventy years. The Bricks and Pavers were displayed in the Wichita office of AOSHS. Digitalization of high school yearbooks was begun. The Business Plan of AOSHS was updated to include the 5-year budget and revised mission and goals. The membership database was updated and special recognition for AOSHS donors was now included in the Quarterly.

## **DR. THOMAS DRYSDALE AND THE GROWTH OF AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

If not for Dr. Thomas Drysdale and the support of Dr. Eugene Hughes, President of Northern Arizona University, there probably would be no American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSS). In not for Drysdale, there would be no American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS). If not for the American Overseas Schools Historical Society, there probably would be no American Overseas School Archives.

Yes, Tom Drysdale is the “father” of AOSA and AOSHS.



During his tenure at NAU, he spent a tremendous amount of time in the establishment of AOSA, attending archival training at the Smithsonian Institute, opening an office, designing a storage area, recruiting and supervising volunteers, developing a procedure for recording and maintenance of memorabilia, and spreading the word worldwide that there was a DoDDS Archives.

In less than five years, memorabilia exceeded the space available. Hughes had accepted a position at Wichita State University and the new NAU President notified Drysdale that the archives had to be moved, as space was needed for academic purposes.

All the memorabilia received by NAU was the property of the university. The university would give and transport and archives to a non-profit organization in Arizona. This created the problem for the archives to have a place to be assembled and stored with over 20,000 pounds of memorabilia. The organization needed to apply to receive non-profit certification by the State of Arizona.

Drysdale accepted the challenge. He devoted his time and energy to the creation of a new organization, the American Overseas Schools Historical Society. He waded through the red tape necessary for AOSHS to become a non-profit. Unable to find a facility to store the memorabilia, he turned the basement of his new home into an office and his three-car garage into a store room. A couple of years later he lost his covered patio and constructed storage areas in the yard.

There was one other problem: no operational funds available. The first two years, AOSHS existed on Drysdale's personal credit card. Eventually, with the growth of membership, AOSHS emerged from a sea of red to being self-sufficient.

From 1995 through 1996, the battle was for existence. In 1997, the major task at hand for AOSHS was to find a permanent location. Letters to metropolitan areas were submitted, site visitations were made, and in 1998, Wichita, Kansas was selected. There were three major reasons that city was selected: 1) Wichita made the best offer of land and buildings, 2) the city officials wanted AOSHS as bad as AOSHS needed a location, with the city valuing an addition to their "Museums on the River" concept, and 3) Wichita ranked high on the selection criteria established by the AOSHS Board of Directors.

Wichita provided a building to be used as an office and storage facility free of charge. At this time, nearly 30,000 pounds of memorabilia was packed and trucked to Wichita. A year later, Wichita established a police sub-station in the Archive building giving 24-hour security. The city then paid all utilities.

Dr. Drysdale resigned as president of AOSHS in 2002 in order to devote his time as Director of the AOSHS Archives and coordinator of Federal Funding. Dr. Ann Bamberger was elected as the new president.

The city scheduled the demolition of the Archive building as part of its waterfront renovation program in 2003. Under the supervision of Drysdale, AOSHS again moved all memorabilia to a climate-controlled facility in the city with the office moving to the basement of his Wichita home.

In May 2004, AOSHS rented a facility in Wichita that provided space for an office, workroom, and small display area. Two large climate-controlled storage areas continued to be used for the 50,000 pounds of memorabilia then in possession. A half-time Archive Associate was employed.

A building in the Delano district of Wichita was purchased in 2005. One section of 3,200 sq. ft. provided adequate space for an office, small display area, work processing area, and archive storage. The additional 3,000 sq. ft. was leased to generate additional funds until that time when more space is needed by AOSHS. The services of a professional fundraiser were engaged for fund-raising in the private sector. A brokerage account was opened to accept donations of stock, bonds, and other investments. AOSHS signed a Memorandum of Agreement with DoDEA to support AOSHS efforts in schools currently operating.

During 2005, a list of 11 priority items was created by the Board to focus our work with AOSHS. Mailing addresses were reduced to include only three addresses for all of our official business. In 2006, DS Instruction 4160.1 between AOSHS and DoDEA was revised.

A Memorandum of Agreement was formed between the Museum of World Treasures in Wichita and AOSHS.

February of 2007 saw a membership/fundraising DVD being produced and distributed to all overseas high schools, district regional office, and all DoDDS and DDESS headquarters personnel. It was also given to alumni organizations and other institutions to create interest in donating and/or supporting/joining AOSHS.

## Why Wichita?

The American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA) were started at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in 1989 by Dr. Eugene Hughes, President and Dr. Thomas Drysdale, an adjunct professor who had been a principal, superintendent and area director of the American schools abroad serving military families. NAU took this on when schools overseas started to close following the fall of the Soviet Union and the changes in the mission of the U.S. military. By 1994 the space allotted for the archives was totally full, and the new president of NAU said the university needed the space for its own expansion. When Dr. Drysdale took over the archives from Northern Arizona University in 1995, he formed the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) and submitted paperwork to become a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in AZ in that same year. A board was formed of former educators and spent three years looking for a location to establish the archives and set up a museum. Several sites were considered, among them were:

A site west of Phoenix, Arizona where a discussion between three cities was going on about establishing a fine arts area at a site where the three communities converged, but little action was actually happening.

A de-commissioned ship in San Diego, California, but the answer was 'No'.

At San Antonio, Texas, the board considered taking over a couple of the buildings on Ft. Sam Houston which the government had turned over to the city. However, the city was looking at builders to offer for the entire property, not donate any portion to AOSHS.

The president of the University of South Florida invited us to come there. After the board, plus a couple of "Brats" visited, the board said 'No'. The university president wanted us to purchase a back section of the property for \$150,000.

We ended up in Wichita because Dr. Eugene Hughes, who with Tom Drysdale created the archives at NAU in 1989, was now president at Wichita State University and encouraged the mayor to invite AOSHS. Several of AOSHS members went to visit, the mayor had a luncheon and invited city leaders to meet us, and they offered us the site in the Museums on the River District for a nominal cost. The site sat over a concrete reservoir which we were assured would support a building. At the DoDDS reunion in Minneapolis in 1998 the membership was asked to vote on a couple of different proposals and Wichita was selected due to the city's generous offer.

Tom and Norma Drysdale, who lived in Goodyear, AZ, then purchased a second home, a condo in Wichita, to establish an office. The archives were moved from Goodyear to a condemned facility in Wichita which was currently also housing a sub-station of the city police department. Because the police department occupied the building, the city covered the utilities, so there were no charges to AOSHS. Tom Drysdale met many of the business people and also several of the politicians, both state and Federal, who were instrumental in the city. It was hoped at the time that some congressional funding might be possible since AOSHS



was representing a government funded school system. He had an appointment to meet with one of them in late Sept. 2001, but when 9/11 occurred, the meeting was canceled.

Ann Bamberger became president in August 2002, and decided over the next year that we had to move the AOSHS office out of the Drysdale's basement in Wichita. The board agreed with the plan to 1) move our status as a non-profit from AZ to KS, and 2) rent an office space to gain name recognition and take AOSHS out of the "mom and pop" status it seemed to have taken on.

Meanwhile in Wichita some events were occurring regarding the building site for the museum. It was determined that the site was not viable for the museum structure and the land was eventually returned to the city.

In March of 2004, Tom, Ann and Jan Mohr, who served as president of the Federal Education Association (FEA), were in D.C. and had three appointments on "The Hill". They met with a representative of Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, a representative of Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas and we met directly with congressman Todd Tiahrt, whose district included Wichita. The AOSHS delegation got the "Very nice, but don't hold your breath." feeling from the senators' representatives. Tiahrt was friendly and very supportive and we hoped might put forward a bill for some funding. Obviously other things got in the way and nothing resulted from our efforts.

In April 2004 AOSHS officers signed a year's lease for an office in Wichita and moved in May 2004. Also, at this time, the archives were moved to the new office as the building where they were stored was ready to be demolished. The next issue of the Quarterly featured the office opening. (See Appendix)

About six months later, knowing that the site on the river was not viable, the board decided to buy a property rather than spend money on rent. The board gave a realtor our budget and as he found properties our two board members living in Wichita went to see them to determine their suitability. We had about four or five NO decisions before they saw the property at 704 and 708 West Douglas, the two units being sold as one property. Tom and Ann flew to Wichita to see the property and decided the location was good and the interior could be reconfigured to meet our needs. It also gave us a unit to use as a rental for income until it might be used by us one day. Ann signed the paperwork in January 2005 and the next issue of the Quarterly detailed that information. (See Appendix.)



Chuck Willis, Dr. Drysdale, Margaret Palmer and Dr. Bamberger (seated) signing the purchase documents for the new building in 2005.

Over the next several months the interior of 704 was redone, putting up a wall to separate the office and small display area from the archive storage area, painting, acquiring new furniture, etc. In April the furniture, supplies and archives were moved from the rental property to the current office. On April 29, 2005 we held the ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening the office with board members, local AOSHS members and city officials in attendance. The following issue of the Quarterly featured the event (See Appendix.)

## AOSHS ENDORSEMENTS

01 Aug 1989	U.S. Dept. of State Ernest N. Mannino	"I encourage your participation in this worthy historical endeavor."
07 Sept. 1989	N.E.A. Keith Geiger	"Educators are the core of a school system."
18 Jan. 1990	AASA Gary Marx	"Congratulations!"
10 Apr. 1991	DoDDS John L. Stremple	"I cannot adequately emphasize the enormous importance of documenting the history of the overseas schools' system in this commendable project."
17 June 1993	AASA Richard D. Miller	"Overseas education has always been of the highest quality and has enabled American citizens to be assured that their families would be well educated."
30 Aug. 1993	Asst. Sec. of Defense Edwin Dorn	"The establishment of a public archive to collect and preserve documents, personal histories, and memorabilia of former educators and students associated with these schools is an important contribution to the Department of Defense."
07 June 2000	N.E.A. Bob Chase	"You have been educating American children overseas since shortly before World War II and it is important to preserve this history."
16 March 2001	AAIE Lewis A. Grell	"The board applauded the vision and hard work of collecting, recording and preserving the rich histories and memorabilia of the American schools abroad, and making it a reality."
18 July 2001	Governor State of Kansas	"This park will serve as an invaluable site to educate the public about an untold chap-

	Bill Graves	ter in the history of American Education.”
21 July 2001	Congressman State of Kansas Todd Tiahrt	“Today marks a great step forward for your organization in its quest to make a new home here in Wichita.”
10 May 2002	U.S. Dept. of State Office of Overseas Schools Keith D. Miller	“This center for the collection of documents concerning the development of the American schools abroad benefits not only scholars and historians, but the Overseas educators as well.”
20 June 2002	DoDEA Director Joseph Tafoya	“The project of documenting the history of the overseas school system is of enormous importance.
08 July 2002	AFT Sandra Feldman	“I urge you to participate in this effort and to encourage your colleagues to join you in this remarkable tradition of invaluable resources.
03 Sept. 2002	North Central Association Kenneth F. Gose	“We recognize the tremendous task AOSHS has before it in cataloging archives and artifacts.”
10 Sept. 2002	PDK International George Kersey, Jr.	“The efforts of AOSHS . . . are in harmony with our own, dearly held sentiments.”
13 Jan. 2003	United States Senate State of Kansas Pat Roberts	“The remarkable stories and experiences of American education abroad will finally have a permanent home that will allow visitors to appreciate the dedication and sacrifices of so many committed to America.”
24 Mar. 2003	Lt. Governor State of Kansas John E. Moore	“American Overseas Schools have played a vital role throughout our nation’s recent history in providing educational services to Americans serving their country abroad.”

14 Apr. 2003	Congress of the United States State of Kansas Dennis Moore	"I would like to commend you and your organization for its hard work in establishing the American Overseas Schools Historical Park."
05 May 2003	Congress of the United States State of Kansas Jerry Moran	"American Overseas Schools have provided exceptional educational services to a generation of Americans serving their country throughout the world."
07 May 2003	Governor State of Kansas Kathleen Sebelius	"The American Overseas Schools Historical Park will be an important center for the thousands of Americans that have taken part in this educational experience."
07 May 2003	Congress of the United States State of Kansas Jim Ryan	"The American Overseas Schools Historic Park will help to recognize and preserve the experiences of American students and teachers that have advanced democracy abroad."
23 May 2003	United States Senate State of Kansas Sam Brownback	"The dynamic stories of American education abroad will be kept alive through this museum and will be a permanent example of your exceptional program."
05 May 2005	NASA Astronaut USAF, Retired Col. John Blaha	"I am pleased to be a member of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society support group."
05 June 2005	President Emeritus Northern AZ Univ. Wichita State Univ. Dr. Eugene Hughes	"I have supported the American Overseas Schools Historical Society from its beginning and am happy to continue doing so."
01 May 2019	DoDEA Director Mr. Tom Brady	It is with great pleasure that I write to congratulate AOSHS on its 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary. There is a lot to celebrate: the work being done towards an AOSHS museum; the forthcoming updates to the website; and most importantly, the outstanding work of everyone at AOSHS that has made this longevity possible.

I am so glad that DoDEA has partnered with AOSHS. Ours is the best kind of partnership, in which we achieve something together that neither of us could do alone.

## **A CHRONOLOGY OF AOSA/AOSHS**

- 1986 In retirement from the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DODDS), Dr. Thomas Drysdale accepted a position with Northern Arizona University (NAU).
- 1987 Dr. Drysdale discussed the possibility of DoDDS Archives with Dr. Eugene Hughes, President of NAU. Dr. Hughes was in agreement and said he would support DoDDS Archives.
- 1988 Dr. Drysdale went to Washington, D.C. to meet with Dr. John Stremple, Director of DoDDS, who agreed it was an excellent idea. From there, Dr. Drysdale met with many educational organizations to solicit their support and endorsement of the archive plan.
- 1989 NAU provided space for a fully equipped office and a large, adjoining storage room on the campus. With help from volunteers the American Overseas School Archives was established.
- 1990 Memorabilia began arriving immediately following the announcement of an American Overseas Schools Archives.
- 1991 The organization and arrangement of the archives was established following guidance from the National Archives in Washington, D.C.
- 1992 In two years of operation, the memorabilia storage room was nearing capacity.
- 1993 Dr. Hughes left NAU to become President at Wichita State University in Kansas. Dr. Stremple officially dedicated the DoDDS component of the archives during the ODDSARA V Reunion.
- 1994 The Archive storage area was filled to capacity. Additional space at NAU was not available. Word was then sent out worldwide requesting memorabilia not be shipped to the archives until a larger facility could be found.
- 1995 The American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) was established with Dr. Drysdale as President. Charter Membership began.
- 1996 AOSHS was incorporated by the Arizona Corporation Commission and NAU transported over ten tons of memorabilia to the AOSHS office located in the basement of Dr. Drysdale's home in Arizona. AOSHS became operational

- internationally with the Internal Revenue Service, which determined that AOSHS qualified as a publicly supported 501C (3) charity.
- 1997 Search began to find a metropolitan area that would meet the society's relocation criteria. Charter Memberships closed for good. An AOSHS Logo was designed by John Lopes.
- 1998 Wichita was identified as the best qualified of fourteen possible locations and was selected to be the DoDDS "Hometown".
- 1999 Nearly 30,000 pounds of archive material was shipped to Wichita and stored in a building provided free by the city.
- 2000 The Archive building was shared with a city police substation, which provided 24-hour security.
- 2001 A site dedication ceremony was held in Wichita on July 21 during the annual DoDDS reunion. It was attended by over 500 educators and over 400 alumni from the overseas schools. Life memberships began.
- 2002 AOSHS was reorganized, and Dr. Drysdale left the presidency to take on the tasks of fundraising and overseeing the archives. AOSHS incorporated in the state of Kansas, and all assets of the AZ corporation were taken over by the KS entity.
- 2003 The archives, now totaling over 50,000 lbs., were moved to a climate-controlled storage facility, as the buildings provided by the city were to be razed for a waterfront project.
- 2004 AOSHS opened an office in Wichita to provide space for archive materials to be processed and volunteers to help. As further employees are hired, other functions will move to Wichita.
- 2005 A Memorandum of Agreement with DoDEA to support AOSHS efforts in schools currently operating was initiated. A brokerage account was opened so that donations of stocks, bonds and other donations could be made directly to this AOSHS account. Dr. Ann Bamberger completed her three-year tenure as president. Ms. Scarlett Rehrig was unanimously elected as the 3<sup>rd</sup> President of AOSHS at the Annual meeting in Scottsdale, AZ.
- 2006 Ten schools were closed in June



- 2007 The AOSHS website has been updated and a new program listing the deceased from one year to the next is now available for viewing. A new trifold was created and posted on the website. It can be printed in order to have information on AOSHS.
- 2008 AOSHS was registered for Good Search and Good Shop to raise money for AOSHS online. [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)
- 2009 Tina Calo became the fourth President of the AOSHS Board of Directors.
- 2010 Former AOSHS president Ann Bamberger took part in one of the first Bratcon Radio (Voice America) broadcasts on December 30, 2010. Ann reviewed the AOSHS History from its founding in 1995 by a small group led by Tom Drysdale, through the formation of the AOSHS Archives in, and to date. <http://bratcom/archives.htm>
- 2011 Duplicates of some past yearbooks from DoDDS high schools were made available for purchase through the AOSHS Archives.
- 2012 Volunteers began assisting at the AOSHS Archives three days per week from The Wichita Museum of World Treasures and Wichita State University.
- 2013 In addition to a part-time employee, the first 40-hour full-time employee was hired. Needed repairs were made to the Archives building including electrical and heating systems and roof.
- 2014 Maintenance and upgrades were implemented to the Wichita Archives Building. Through a monetary contribution from a Board member, AOSHS became a Charter Member of the Museum of the United States Army to be built near Fort Belvoir, VA. The AOSHS By-Laws were updated by the Board.
- 2015 Professional Organizations:  
--Kansas Museum Association (KMA)  
--American Association for State and Local History (ASSLH)  
Museum Cooperation:  
--National Museum of the United States Army (Ft. Belvoir)  
--Museum of the American Military Family (Albuquerque)  
--Museum of World Treasures (Wichita)  
--George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida

- 2016 Professional Organizations:  
Kansas Museum Association (KMA)  
American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)
- Museum Cooperation  
National Museum of the United States Army (Ft. Belvoir) (continuing attempted contact only)  
Museum of the American Military Family (Tijeras NM)  
Museum of World Treasures (Wichita)  
George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida

Key Volunteers: Tina Calo, Past President; Lee Davis, Advisor; Jan Mohr, Advisor; Scarlett Rehrig, Advisor; Rita Wells, Advisor; Ann Bamberger, Advisor; Linda McCauley, Deceased List; Les Burch, Schools List Historian; Richard Nell, Overdue memberships; Myrna Margraf and Monica Maack Tiller, Local Volunteers

- 2018 Professional Organizations:  
Kansas Museum Association (KMA)  
American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)

Museum Exhibits

Museum of World Treasures, Wichita, KS – Three displays including “All ARE NOT FREE: Experiences of Berlin Residents During the Cold War” featuring “The Candy Bomber”, Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen  
Museum of the American Military Family (MAMF), Tijeras, NM

Volunteers - Myrna Margraf, Denise Smith

Contract Employees- Kevin Frutiger, Yearbook Digitalization  
Adam Gossman, Archivist

Board Accomplishments

- Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) and American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) collaborated to pursue their common goals of preserving the history of the school systems that have educated the overseas children of American military service members and DOD civilians for more than seventy years
- Bricks and Pavers displayed in the Wichita office of AOSHS
- Digitalization of high school yearbooks begun
- Business Plan of AOSHS updated to include the 5-year budget and revised mission and goals

- Plans formalized for digital memorial program
- Updated membership database
- Special recognition of AOSHS donors included in the Quarterly

## 2019 Professional Organizations:

Kansas Museum Association (KMA)

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)

## Museum Exhibits

Museum of World Treasures, Wichita, KS – Three displays including “All ARE NOT FREE: Experiences of Berlin Residents During the Cold War” featuring “The Candy Bomber”, Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen

Museum of the American Military Family (MAMF), Tijeras, NM

Volunteers – Board Members, Myrna Margraf, Bitburg High Alumni, Paula Shelhamer, Jan Cropsey, Richard Nell, Larry Frutiger, Jim Onoprienko, Denise Smith, Glenna Harrison, Jill Abbott, Stephen Abbott, Tina Calo, Jan Mohr, Winanne Murray, Lera Germaine Montminy, Larry Frutiger, Susan Young Keels, Roger Youngman, Darlynn Kelsey, Noreen Mathern, Kathy Welter, Kathy Brown, Theresa Barba, Beth Pond, Judith Smart, Kay Galloway, Janice Galloway, Judy Ertl, Cathy McAdams, Linda McCauley, Chris Limes, Chrystie Limes

Contract Employees – Kevin Frutiger, Yearbook Digitalization  
Adam Gossman, Archivist

## Board Accomplishments

- Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) provided financial support to American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) to ensure the preservation of the history of the school systems that have educated the overseas children of American military service members and DOD civilians for more than seventy years
- Over 1800 yearbooks have been digitalized and will be available on the website
- Business Plan of AOSHS is still in draft form and will be finalized when the marketing plan is complete
- New website unveiled
- AOSHS developed a concept for digitizing the memorial program
- Plans and reconfiguration of the Wichita office has begun to include the museum
- Newly retired DoDDS educators will be given a one-year membership to AOSHS to encourage them to become permanent members

- CafePress is online so members can purchase AOSHS merchandise
- A Flame Award was presented at the annual meeting
- Two Volunteers were recognized for their outstanding contributions

## 2020 Professional Organizations:

Kansas Museum Association (KMA)

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)

### Museum Exhibits

Museum of World Treasures, Wichita, KS – Three displays including “All ARE NOT FREE: Experiences of Berlin Residents During the Cold War” featuring “The Candy Bomber”, Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen

Museum of the American Military Family (MAMF), Tijeras, NM

Volunteers – Board Members, Myrna Margraf, Richard Nell, Glenna Harrison, Tina Calo, Winanne Murray, Larry Frutiger, Chris Limes, Chrystie Limes, Lera Germaine Montminy

Contract Employees- Kevin Frutiger, Yearbook Digitalization

Adam Gossman, Archivist

Chris Limes, Photographer

### Board Accomplishments

- Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) provided financial support to American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) to ensure the preservation of the history of the school systems that have educated the overseas children of American military service members and DOD civilians for more than seventy years
- Grand Opening of the museum that was scheduled for September 24, 2020 has been postponed due to the pandemic
- Over \$4000 was collected for the annual scholarships and three scholarships were awarded this year
- Over 2200 yearbooks have been digitalized and are available on the website
- More than 2000 items have been photographed for inclusion on the website and to document our artifacts
- Our archives now contain over 25,000 items
- Business Plan of AOSHS is still in draft form and will be finalized when the marketing plan is complete

- Designed and implemented new logo to commemorate 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- An internal audit of the financial records was completed in September 2019 and will be done each year
- New website updated regularly and has an average of 4000 hits per month with the majority being viewing yearbooks
- The plan for digitizing the memorial program has been developed and is ready for implementation
- The construction and reconfiguration of the Wichita office has been completed
- Newly retired DoDDS educators will be given a one-year membership to AOSHS to encourage them to become permanent members
- The Historical Books were revised including many updates on opening and closing dates for schools
- CafePress is online so members can purchase AOSHS merchandise
- Flame, Presidential and Volunteers Awards were approved and will be presented at the Grand Opening

## 2021 Professional Organizations:

Kansas Museum Association (KMA)

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)

### Museum Exhibits

Museum of World Treasures, Wichita, KS – Three displays including “All ARE NOT FREE: Experiences of Berlin Residents During the Cold War” featuring “The Candy Bomber”, Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen

Museum of the American Military Family (MAMF), Tijeras, NM

Volunteers – Board Members, Myrna Margraf, Richard Nell, Larry Frutiger, Glenna Harrison, Tina Calo, Winanne Murray, Chris Limes, Chrystie Limes, Lera Germaine Montminy, Margy Roehl. Michael Connelly

Contract Employees- Kevin Frutiger, Yearbook Digitalization

Adam Gossman, Archivist

Chris Limes, Photographer

## Board Accomplishments 2021

- Partnership between American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA)

continued to enable AOSHS to ensure the preservation of the history of the school systems that have educated the overseas children of American military service members and DOD civilians for more than seventy years and to make this history available to DoDEA's worldwide audience.

- The Grand Opening of the museum was held on April 15, 2021. An Open House will be held in September 2021.
- Three new members were added to the board and title of the board position of Membership was changed to Development.
- The Board set up the AOSHS Endowment Fund to build an asset that will produce income for the organization for many years to come.
- Over 3000 yearbooks have been digitized and place online.
- Approximately 8000 items have been photographed for inclusion on the website and to document our archives.
- Our archives now contain over 75,000 items.
- Our website is updated regularly and new features are added as they are developed.
- Individual school histories are being researched and added to the website.
- The digitized memorial program, Remembrance Stones, has been developed.
- This year's Flame, President and Volunteer Awards were approved and presented at the appropriate venues.
- In 2020 AOSHS awarded 3 Thomas Drysdale Memorial Scholarships to seniors at Guam HS & Ansbach HS. The scholarships are completely funded by donations from BRATS & educators from the DoDEA system and have been awarded yearly since 2016.

## 2022 Professional Organizations:

Kansas Museum Association (KMA)

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)

### Museum Exhibits

Museum of World Treasures, Wichita, KS – Three displays including “All ARE NOT FREE: Experiences of Berlin Residents During the Cold War” featuring “The Candy Bomber”, Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen

Museum of the American Military Family (MAMF), Tijeras, NM

Volunteers – Board Members, Myrna Margraf, Richard Nell, Larry Frutiger, Glenna Harrison, Tina Calo, Winanne Murray, Chris Limes, Chrystie Limes, Lera Germaine Montminy, Margy Roehl

Intern – Jaime Zajac

Contract Employees- Kevin Frutiger, Yearbook Digitalization  
Adam Gossman, Archivist

Board Accomplishments 2021-2022

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).
- Increased the funds in the AOSHS Endowment Fund currently to \$350,000.
- Finalized the AOSHS Business Plan.
- Digitized and placed 3200 yearbooks online.
- Photographed and posted approximately 35,000 archive items on the website.
- Increased the number of number of items in the archives to over 200,000.
- Researched, wrote and posted school histories for 65% of the overseas schools on the website.
- Launched Virtual Remembrances, an online platform where individuals can be memorialized and events can be commemorated. Several items were added to the Remembrance Stones program.
- Held the “Planning for the Future” in-service for board facilitated by Jamey Hansen, CIO, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
- Held preliminary meetings with Dr. Robert Smith. Ph.D., Director of the Fort Riley Museum Complex to pursue opportunities to display and advertise AOSHS.
- Awarded 4 Thomas Drysdale Memorial Scholarships to seniors at Lakenheath HS, Alconbury HS, Edgren Misawa HS & EJ King Sasebo HS for the 2020-21 school year. Three additional scholarships were presented for the 2021-22 school year. The scholarships were completely funded by donations from BRATS & educators from the DoDEA system.
- Produced and presented a video of the AOSHS headquarters and museum for the reunion. The video can be accessed on the AOSHS website.
- Developed and implemented a new tagline for the logo to refine our mission.
- Supported the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of DoDEA through displays and support of DoDEA activities
- Created an awareness and support of AOSHS beyond our membership
- Continued our outreach for memorabilia and memories about DoD schools.
- Increased our efforts to share the AOSHS website and Facebook page to promote reconnecting individuals to their experiences with DoD schools.

2023

Museum Exhibits

Museum of World Treasures, Wichita, KS – Three displays including “All ARE NOT FREE: Experiences of Berlin Residents During the Cold War” featuring “The Candy Bomber”, Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen  
Museum of the American Military Family (MAMF), Tijeras, NM  
DoDEA Display at the Pentagon

Volunteers – Board Members, Myrna Margraf, Richard Nell, Gayle Vaughn-Wiles, Glenna Harrison, Winanne Murray, Chris Limes, Chrystie Limes, Margy Roehl, Linda McCauley, Norine Mathern, Kay Galloway, Susan Martz Cothran, Buddy Levitt, Judith Smart, Monique Margraf

Office Manager – Jaime Zajac

Contract Employees- Kevin Frutiger, Yearbook Digitalization  
Adam Gossman, Archivist  
Deanne Clasen, Photographer

Board Accomplishments 2022-2023

- Assisted DoDEA in a major project at the Pentagon by providing historical information and input into the development of a map depicting ALL DoD schools since 1907. The project included a large mural covering 143 linear feet describing past and present aspects of the Department of Defense Education Activity.
- Increased funds in the AOSHS Endowment Fund currently to \$350,000.
- Increased membership since last year to 1249 members, representing a 22% increase.
- Increased the number of yearbooks digitized and placed online to over 4,300
- Increased the number of yearbook titles available in the archive as either physical copies or PDFs to over 5,100 (Physical copies increased to over 3,700)
- Photographed and posted approximately 70,000 archive items on the website.
- Through continued outreach for memorabilia and memories about DoD schools increased the number of items in the archives to over 200,000.
- Researched, wrote and posted school histories for over 90% of the overseas schools on the website.
- Launched a successful initiative on Facebook in which the archivist posts artifacts each Friday highlighting five schools. In three months, 1100 people were added to our Facebook membership, representing an increase of 14%. By the end of July 2023, AOSHS have over 8500 Facebook members.
- Expanded the number of Virtual Remembrances posted on the website and continued to receive donations to those previously posted. AOSHS continues to promote the program by posting to several Facebook Groups..



- Developed a relationship with the National Museum of the United States Army to display information about teachers/administrators and students and their connections to the military. Establishing this connection to military-museums is a giant step toward expanding AOSHS' reach..
- Awarded six Thomas Drysdale Memorial Scholarships totaling \$9000 which were funded by BRATS, educators, and alumni. The scholarships were awarded to two students from Kadena and one student each from Kinnick, Sigonella, Kaiserslautern and Stuttgart. The scholarships for Kaiserslautern and Stuttgart were completely funded by alumni from those schools but managed via AOSHS.
- Produced and presented an updated video of the AOSHS headquarters and museum which was shown at the DoDDS Reunion and made available on the AOSHS website.
- Created an awareness and support of AOSHS beyond our membership

## **APPENDICES**

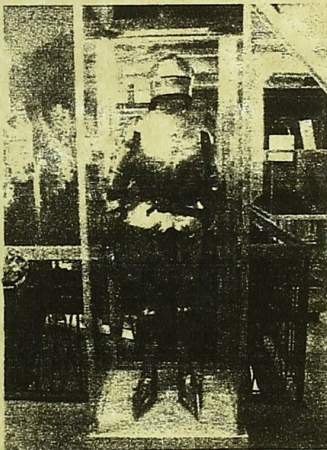
## The Museum of World Treasures in Wichita, Kansas

By Tom Drysdale, AOSHS Archive Volunteer

*The American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) in Wichita has an excellent mutually cooperative arrangement with the Museum of World Treasures (MWT) to display its large museum quality items. All members of the AOS Historical Society are encouraged to visit the MWT when in Wichita while attending AOSHS office and Archive activities. Valerie Atkinson [marketing@worldtreasures.org] is in charge of marketing at the museum and wrote the following history:*

The Museum of World Treasures, founded by Dr. Jon and Lorna Kardatzke, opened on April 22, 2001 at the Garvey Center in downtown Wichita, Kansas. Two years later, the Museum relocated to what is affectionately known as the Farm & Art Market. It is located in the Old Town district of Wichita, just east of downtown and was converted from a warehouse, as were most of the multiuse buildings in the district. The area is an eclectic mix of restaurants, shops, clubs, museums, and theaters as well as many loft condominiums.

The Museum of World Treasures has many artifacts. It is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) Kansas corporation. Tax-deductible donations go directly to support the Museum's educational programs.



*The first AOSHS artifact to be on display in the MWT is that of CLARENCE THE CRUSADER. Linda A. Wagner, President Emeritus and Co-Founder of the Bonn American High School Alumni Association, wrote most of the following historical information about "Clarence the Crusader," beloved Mascot of "the American School on the Rhein (Bonn American High School Bonn, Germany).*

Following the end of World War II and the division of Germany, the West German government established its new capital in the city of Bonn. Like other countries, the U.S. had a diplomatic mission near Bonn, and in February 1951, construction began on a compound to house the Americans (and their families) who came to work at the U.S. Embassy, situated in the small town of Plittersdorf along the banks of the Rhein River. The base included housing, a post exchange and a commissary. By 1952, the American community was flourishing and had a school, athletic and social facilities, and the Stimpson Memorial Chapel.

The school, dedicated in March 1952, consisted of grades K-8. By the '67-'68 school year, grades 9 and 10 were added, and in 1971, the school became a fully-accredited high school and graduated its first class in 1972. The student body included children of ambassadors and diplomats from around the world and was often referred to as a mini United Nations.

Throughout most of those years, a suit of armor, known by the student body as "Clarence", stood in the entrance and was the identity of the school. Clarence, an 18<sup>th</sup> century reproduction of a 14<sup>th</sup> century suit of armor for a German mounted knight, was a gift to one of the first principals – Ruby Pearl Anderson. Clarence became the permanent property of the school when Ms. Anderson moved to another post in 1963.

*The reunification of Germany resulted in the reestablishment of Berlin as the capital of Germany. As a consequence of this change, the U.S. Embassy in Bonn moved to Berlin along with the majority of the personnel previously based in Plittersdorf. The American School closed in 1997 and through the assistance of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society, Clarence (and all the rest of the school's memorabilia) are now in Wichita, KS.*

### PUBLISHING SCHEDULE FOR THE QUARTERLY:

As the name indicates, the QUARTERLY is published four times a year. Material submitted for publication should reach the editors by: January 15; April 30; August 10; and October 15





**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, EUROPE  
UNIT 29649, Box 7000  
APO AE 09002-7000**



December 12, 2012

**A Message from the Director, DoDDS Europe  
to Area Administrators, Educators and Staffs**

As you are all aware, the U.S. military presence in Europe, and indeed throughout the world, is in a process of continuous change. While I have no specific near-term adjustments to announce, I recognize that transformation is causing a sense of uncertainty for many of you.

While it is difficult to predict the impact of the European military force structure after FY 2014, we are planning on how to deal with the changes that are now in progress. Our immediate task is to manage the closure of the Heidelberg military community at the end of this summer. We will close Heidelberg High School, Heidelberg Middle School, Patrick Henry Elementary School, and the Heidelberg District Superintendents Office (DSO) in June 2013. Another school closing next June is Bitburg MS due to the decrease in enrollment within the community. Bitburg MS students will attend Bitburg ES (grades 5 and 6) and Bitburg HS (grades 7 and 8).

The Bamberg and Schweinfurt schools will operate throughout School Year (SY) 2013-2014 with an expectation that the enrollment will decrease during the year and that the schools in both communities will close in June 2014. The Superintendent of the Bavaria District, working with my office, has developed school configuration options to best support the educational needs of Bamberg and Schweinfurt students throughout this period of drawdown. With input from school staffs and the community, we will make a decision about the Bamberg and Schweinfurt configurations after the new calendar year.

The last school that will see a dramatic change is Lajes E/HS. The Air Force announced that tours to this base will be unaccompanied. We expect our Lajes school will close in June 2014.

Other possible changes: we expect some growth in the coming months in Vicenza, Lakenheath, and Wiesbaden. Additionally, in 2014 Rota will see the arrival of the first of four permanently assigned ships, a restationing that we expect will bring more families to that community. I am hopeful that the increase in student enrollment in these four locations will generate additional teacher placement opportunities. There are other military transformation changes possible but these remain speculative or classified.

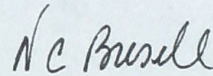
As the services continue their transformation, we too will transform. In the future, options for teaching assignments and particular locations may not be as plentiful as we have enjoyed in the past. With the closing of so many schools this year, we anticipate over 200 teachers will be excess, along with many school administrators and above school level staff. To

1-37



answer these placement requirements, I have tried to limit new, permanent hires by monitoring vacancies, filling them only with educators on appointments not-to-exceed the end of this school year. We have also announced every vacancy Europe-wide in an effort to place excess educators before the end of the school year as long as we can fill behind them on a temporary basis. We are working with DoDEA Headquarters to establish a process that will provide more opportunities for teacher placement within Europe. Similar to last year, we hope to operate a three-phased process, to include in-district placement, then proximity placement, and finally placement through the DoDEA-wide Teacher Transfer Program. Details on the placement process are being worked and will be made available when they are finalized.

I have made a commitment to our schools and communities to do everything possible to limit disruptions caused by transformation. For our staff, I will make every effort to keep you informed of the most current information available. Thank you for your continued loyalty to our students and schools, and especially to the military communities we support. I am proud to serve as your director and humbled to work with such fine educators.



Dr. Nancy C. Bresell  
Director, DoDDS-Europe



# aoshs Quarterly

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society

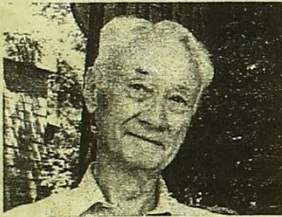
Summer 2013

[www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org)

704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104

[overseasschools@aoshs.org](mailto:overseasschools@aoshs.org)

## Friends Remember Dr. Thomas Drysdale



Thomas Townsend Drysdale, Jr. died on February 28, 2013, in Goodyear, AZ, following a heart attack and stroke. Thomas was born on May 4, 1921 in Alamosa, CO, and spent his early years in Colorado. He attended Compton Junior College where he met his future wife, Norma Fay Hall.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941 and served in WWII as a B-24 pilot in the Eighth Air Force, 44th Bomb Group, and flew missions over Sicily, Naples, Normandy and Germany. On his last mission, his plane was badly damaged. Upon the return over the channel to England, all the crew bailed out, except for Tom and his co-pilot. They were badly injured in the crash landing. Tom received the Distinguished Flying Cross and European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal. After WWII, he served thirty years in the U. S. Air Force Reserves, attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Between 1956-1981 Tom served as a principal, superintendent and regional director in the Department of Defense Dependent School System in England, Germany, Washington, D.C. and Hawaii. He earned a Ph.D. in comparative education from Georgetown University in Washington, D. C. in 1973. He was an adjunct professor of education at Northern Arizona University (NAU) from 1984 - 1994.

In 1989, while at NAU, Tom founded the American Overseas Schools Archives. When the archives outgrew the space allotted at NAU, Tom formed the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) in 1995, took possession of the archives and relocated them to Wichita, KS, where they are today.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Recently Gayle, as a new member of the American Overseas School Historical Society (AOSHS) Board, wrote to Tom and stated, "It is the desire of the current AOSHS Board to go forth and carry the torch for AOSHS that you ignited."*

"Dean and I have fond memories of Dr. Tom Drysdale. Dean worked with him as they climbed their career ladders. Tom was knowledgeable and well respected in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools. He was a man with a vision; he established definite goals and his expectations were high. Dr. Drysdale made significant contributions to DoDDS and AOSHS; he leaves a legacy."--  
*Drs. Dean and Gayle Wiles.*

### **Memories of Tom Drysdale** by Diana Kempton (friend, Overseas Brat, and former board member of AOSHS)

I first met Tom Drysdale at Joe Condrill's *Overseas Brats* Homecoming in 1999 at Covington, KY, when I attended his presentation on the proposed American Overseas Schools Historical Park. It was complete with architectural renderings and a model. I heard proposals by architectural committee members, AOSHS members, Overseas Brats members, and various Brats who belonged to individual school alumni groups. This white-haired gentleman stood tall and proud as he shared his background of having been a teacher in California, then an overseas schools principal and superintendent, and later, an adjunct professor at Northern Arizona University, working with the overseas schools teaching program.

As he spoke of his vision for a museum and park, a home for people who were teachers, administrators, and/or students at schools around the world--people who felt at home in many places, yet had no singular place to call "home"--his vision became mine. I saw a circle of flags representing all American overseas schools to date waving in the wind, surrounding the open globe metal sculpture.

Continued on page 5



fellow alumna and classmate Jeri Polansky Glass as the first Overseas Brat alumni on the AOSHS Board of Directors.



From taking on the Archives to founding today's AOSHS in 1989, Tom was the spearhead of an effort to preserve the history and memories of America's grand experiment to send military families overseas instead of just those who served, thus showcasing American life and providing their children the highest quality education experience. We owe his memory so much. Without him, we would not be on this path, and much of the memorabilia of the overseas schools experience would be scattered to the wind.

Personally, I have lost a friend, a great mentor and a source of inspiration--not to mention a champion in my career track. Because of Tom, I'm now also an adjunct faculty member of two colleges, as well as pursuing some dreams that involve writing and photography-- dreams that might have been left on the back burner without his inspiration.

Tom's wife, Norma, once forwarded me their tongue-in-cheek retirement plans for when Tom turned 85: to take up residence on a Princess Cruise Ship, since the accommodations were far better, and less expensive, than those of senior care facilities. But Tom kept on going, sailing on his own course till the end, working tirelessly to preserve our histories and memorabilia so they may live on in perpetuity. Thanks, Tom. We *will* keep your dream alive.

***From Dr. Ann Bamberger (the 2<sup>nd</sup> AOSHS President following Tom)***

I met Tom Drysdale in 1979 when I became principal at SHAPE High School in Belgium and Tom was director of the Atlantic Region of the DoD schools. He started as my boss, and over the years, became my friend. When he retired in 1981 I thought it unlikely that we would meet again, but when I was later assigned as Superintendent of the Heidelberg District in Germany, who should pop into my office but Tom Drysdale. It was about 1990 and Tom was an adjunct professor at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Europe supervising student teachers from NAU in DoDDS schools. At that time he told me about AOSA, the American Overseas Schools Archives, which had been established at NAU in 1989.

Due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the military mission in Europe had changed and many schools were closing. Tom and Dr. Eugene Hughes, president of NAU, felt the history of this unique school system was too important to lose, so the archives were established. When the space at NAU became too small, Tom took possession of the materials and the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) was incorporated in 1995. Tom's dedication to AOSHS and the history of the schools is evident. He worked tirelessly to find a home for AOSHS and attempted to get funding for a museum to house the memorabilia and artifacts sent in by schools, educators and former students.

Following meetings with Senate staffers and a member of the House of the Representatives, he hoped to receive some Federal funding, but September 11, 2001 brought a halt to any such plans. The museum was put aside and a building was bought in Wichita to house the archives. From being a totally volunteer organization, to having several part-time employees, AOSHS has grown to have a full-time office manager/archive director, and is actively pursuing joining forces with other museums representing military life.

None of this would be a reality without Tom Drysdale's vision and tireless efforts over the past 18 years. At one time there were over 200 schools in Europe; the count in 2013 is 76. The loss of schools in the Pacific is far less, primarily all the schools in the Philippines and a few in Japan. Tom has left a wonderful legacy that will keep the memory of those schools and the quality of education they provided alive. We have much for which to thank him.



## Remembering Tom Drysdale

Published March 6, 2013 DODDS Europe DODDS Pacific Europe Schooling With Uncle Sam



**Drysdale, Thomas 91, of Goodyear, AZ passed away on Feb 28, 2013.**

**Thomas Townsend Drysdale, Jr., died on February 28, 2013 in Goodyear, AZ, after a brief illness. Thomas was born on May 4, 1921 in Alamosa, CO, to Oneta Moore Kirkpatrick and Thomas Townsend Drysdale, Sr. He spent his early years in CO. He attended Compton Junior College, CA, where he met his future wife, Norma Fay Hall. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941 and served in WWII as a B-24 pilot in the Eighth Air Force, 44th Bomb Group, and flew missions over Sicily, Naples, Normandy and Germany. He won the Distinguished Flying Cross and European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal. He received a B. A. from Whittier College, in Whittier, CA, in 1952. He taught in the Whittier elementary school system from 1952 – 1956. He served as a principal and superintendent in the Department of Defense Dependent School System in England, Germany and Hawaii from 1956-1981.**

**After WWII he served thirty years in the U. S. Air Force Reserves, attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel. He received a Ph.D. in comparative education from Georgetown University in Washington, D. C. in 1973. He was an adjunct professor of education at Northern Arizona University from 1984 – 1994. He founded the American Overseas Schools Historical Society, headquartered in Wichita, KS, in 1989. A resident of Goodyear for 18 years, he leaves his beloved wife of 70 years, Norma Fay Hall. He was the father of Lianne of Ozark, MO; Peter David of Dingmans Ferry, PA; Connie Marie of Branford, CT; Dale Thomas of Alexandria, VA; Brian and Karl, both of Goodyear, AZ. He also leaves six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, and a sister, Emma Lou Willis of Kerrville, TX.**

**Abel Funeral Service, 1627 N. 51st Ave. Phoenix AZ 85035**

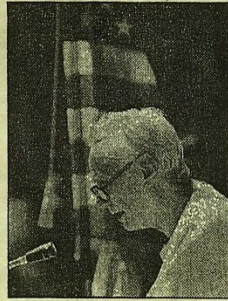
**Visitation March 7, 2013 2 PM, Service March 7, 2013 3 PM**

1-41



# The Wichita Eagle

## Overseas museum location dedicated



Larry Smith/Correspondent

Thomas Drysdale, president of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society, addresses a crowd of former overseas teachers and students at the site dedication for the society's museum in Wichita on Saturday.

The red, yellow and white-striped tents were big, but two just weren't enough.

It would've taken about six to shade the hundreds of people who showed up Saturday for the American Overseas Schools Historical Society Museum and Archives site dedication.

Historical information and memorabilia from more than 600 American schools based overseas will be on display at the museum, to be built on 5 acres of land next to the river and across the street from the Mid-America All-Indian Center. Groundbreaking is planned for 2002.

Spirits were lively in spite of the heat — attendees clapped and cheered as speakers briefly addressed the crowd. Speakers were mostly military dependents and their educators from across the country. Guest speakers included Joe Tafoya, director of Department of Defense Education; Eugene Hughes, president emeritus of Wichita State University; and Tom Drysdale, president of the society.

JULY 22, 2001

[www.kansas.com](http://www.kansas.com)

SUNNY AND HOT  
HIGH 106 ■ LOW 77 ■

WICHITA

S U N D A Y

1-43

**With  
YOUR PARTICIPATION**

**AOSHS**

**will continue to**

**“Make History”**

**for years and decades**

**to come!**

**Thank You!!!**