



2013 Coming Up...

Mimi Gardner '52

In the last issue we wrote about a riverboat trip in Europe for the next SASA Reunion as a quite different kind of event. Only a very few of you responded yea or nay. This time we will need your pretty definite yea by December 1, 2012. If I don't hear from you, I will assume you are not planning to join us. (You can purchase trip insurance, which is a good idea anyway, if you have reservations about your health.)



Photo courtesy of The Barge Company

After a fair amount of research, consulting with interested parties, and some serious thought, this is our proposal for the 2013 reunion in Europe – A ONE-WEEK BARGE TRIP IN FRANCE. If you've never done a barge trip, a real treat is in store for you. If you have, you know what I mean! And we would have it all to ourselves.

Depending on how many sign up, we have some choices: There is a barge called the Caprice that holds 21 people and travels in the Burgundy region, Dijon to St. Leger. We could go in October for the best prices.

Another is the Mirabelle that goes in the Bordeaux region. It holds 24 people and travels on the River Garonne, the Gironde Estuary and the Dordogne River. Best prices are October. (This is my favorite.) Then there is the Lafayette in Southern France, beginning in Avignon. It holds 22 people and we could add a tandem barge called the L'Estelle if we needed to, thus accommodating up to 42 guests.

You would need to plan on around \$5,000 per person including airfare from the U.S. and trip insurance. Once you sign on, there will be many follow-up details, of course.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU BEFORE DECEMBER 1:

Yes, we wish to do this and are ready to put in our down payment.

We have a preference for dates and places but are willing to be flexible because all of it sounds wonderful.

Please send your reply to mimihollister1@verizon.net. If you don't have email and wish to join us on a barge, please call me at 781-631-6971 ASAP or send a note to me, Mimi Gardner, 7 Glover Square, Marblehead MA 01945. (Please note that I will be away from November 16 to 29 and Charlie Way will be receiving email reservations during that time: cybway@aol.com.)

(Continued on next page)

Because there were only about 35 of us at Split Rock in 2010, we are assuming that there will be fewer attending this reunion also but we would love to be surprised at how many of you plan to join us. We also hope to pick up several European alums who have not been able to join us in the past.

For many more enticements, look up the websites: Barges in France or The Barge Company. Those who have signed on so far are Don and Barbara Ady, Ginny and Jeff Gorman, Don and Mimi Gardner, Teddy and Andrea Heinrichsohn, Anne Romasco.



From the Editor *Mimi Gardner '52*



Word from and about the writers among us, quite a few notes from you, a personal story or two, a new SASA Executive Committee, and **especially a chance to be together in Europe in 2013** – all that and more appears in this issue. Please note that you must get back to me ASAP if you can join us on a barge in France next autumn.

To be on the SASA Executive Committee has not been a demanding task over the years but it has nevertheless been reassuring and helpful to have such a committee for those of us who work on reunions and keep the connections with SAS going and just generally make a few things happen each year. So we thank you Ed Winter, Ben Gilson, Carl Scovel, and Janice Flanley Nelsen for lending us your support and interest over the years, as you move on to other things. Betty Barr Wang has also asked to simply be our Shanghai liaison – a more than hugely important relationship. And Teddy Heinrichsohn, our Emeritus President, remains as an invaluable consultant. In fact, both Betty and Teddy are copied on almost every email that flies around about SASA matters.

We are also so grateful to Charlie Way for staying on as our Treasurer, Chia Lun Huang as our representative for more recent graduates, and Angie Mills as our representative for pre-war alums.

The new Executive Committee includes Reva Feldman Jolovitz, Ted Stannard, Don Ady, Jeff Gorman, and Ellis (Jake) Jacob. We are asking them to organize an occasional regional gathering of alums as their main task. The larger reunions seem too much for most folks as we all ripen. Only a few of us wish to or are able to travel a distance anymore. But on occasion we hear reports of some very lively and fun regional gatherings for lunch or dinner or whatever. We are pleased to include a book review by Carl Scovel (SAS '49) of a memoir by Carl's classmate and friend, Father Augustine Roberts (Bruce Roberts SAS '50), ***Finding the Treasure***.

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Founders Day: Celebrating 100 Years

Courtesy of Eagle Online, September 2012



Photo courtesy of Eagle Online

American merchants, milkmaids, patriotic children, and prominent businessmen of the 1900s stepped out of modern day school buses and minivans and onto SAS campuses last week, as part of the school's celebration of 100 years since it opened its doors.

It may not be possible to go back in time and experience what life was like, but we can pretend.

More than 3,000 students, teachers, staff, and parents from both

Pudong and Puxi campuses celebrated SAS's centennial year, to the day. It was September 17, 1912 when SAS was established.

Students, teachers, and faculty administrators paraded around on September 17 dressed in suspenders, bowties, flat caps, pleated skirts, and traditional Chinese dress.

Founders Day—100 Years Later

Betty Barr Wang, SAS '49

On Monday, September 17, 2012 I represented SASA at the actual Centennial Founders Day celebrations – in the morning at the Puxi Campus and in the afternoon at the Pudong Campus. The weather was absolutely perfect, sunny, not too hot, and everything went very well. Our school song was sung by the Barbershop Quartet at Puxi and everyone stood and joined in at the Pudong Campus. In the morning at Puxi another song was sung: a version of "Fair Is the Name" arranged by the well-known Chinese composer Tan Dun who is, I believe, a parent of a current SAS student. (For much more about the celebrations look at Eagle Online which you can reach at www.saschina.org. home page.)

Separately, on September 10, there was an opening ceremony for an exhibition entitled "Deke Erh's Archive: Oral and Visual Documentary" at Zhongshan Park. Part of the visual documentary was photos taken from the book that Deke published about many of us at the 2008 reunion.

Also, Betty writes that John Leonard, a Pudong music teacher, has produced a half-hour DVD entitled "SAS Through the Decades in Photos and Music." It consists largely of Teddy Heinrichsohn's photos of the past and George Wang's videos taken at the events in February, 2012, at Deke's Gallery in Taikang Lu when various music groups from the school performed. It also contains our old school song and a good photo of Ted Stannard (SAS '48) at the April gathering in Shanghai as well as the new school song written by John. Hopefully there will be copies of this made available to SASA.

In Memoriam

Ned Nelsen, husband of Janice Flanley Nelsen, SAS '48

“This is to let you know that my beloved Ned passed away on August 19, 2012. He was at home under hospice care and went peacefully. I miss him profoundly, but feel so blessed that we had almost 17 wonderful years together. It was a gift that I shall always treasure in my heart.

Teddy (Heinrichsohn), I thought you'd like to know that even though his Alzheimers had progressed dramatically, he could still remember certain people, and one day about three weeks ago he suddenly said, “You know what would be good tonight? If we could get Teddy Heinrichsohn to come over and cook us a good Chinese dinner.” Good food and wine were still very special to him, and your wonderful talents in those fields, Teddy, were very vivid memories for us both. I am so glad that you all were able to know him and appreciate what a great person he was. We were both so fortunate to find such a great love at our age. His love of travel equaled mine and enabled us to visit even those of you who are far away.”

Editor's note: Many of us at SASA Reunions were privileged to know this tall, gracious, very accomplished, quietly strong and elegant man. We will miss him.

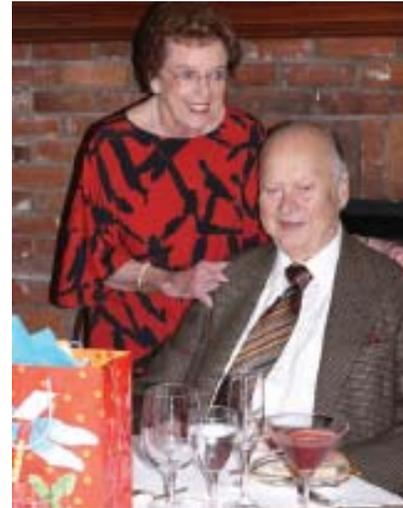


Photo Courtesy of The Larchmont Chronicle

“God, Aren't We Lucky” Ned R. Nelsen September 29, 1920 – August 19, 2012

Courtesy of Ned's daughter and The Los Angeles Times



Ned Nelsen passed away at home at the age of 91 after 8 days of hospice care. He was surrounded by his family and wonderful caregivers. As Ned said almost every day to his wife, Janice, “God, aren't we

lucky.” And he was. Ned was born in 1920 on a farm in Neligh, Nebraska. He started his education in a one-room schoolhouse, graduated from the local high school, and regularly returned to Neligh for class reunions, most recently in 2009 for his 70th. He served in the

Army during World War II primarily in New Guinea. Ned's marksmanship was so good that he was inducted even though he was blind in his right eye. After the war, Ned settled in Los Angeles and attended USC on the GI Bill, receiving both his undergraduate and law degrees. He began practicing law in 1952 with the firm of Grant Cooper, later becoming Grant's partner in the firm Cooper & Nelsen. Ned was a successful criminal defense and family law attorney who loved being in the courtroom. He was renowned for both his integrity and legal prowess. One of Ned's cases was the subject of the book “A Death in California” which later became a television movie with Cheryl Ladd in 1985. Ned's only complaint about the mini-series was that he thought Robert Redford should have played him. Ned was a member of the riding club, Los Rancheros Visitadores; was an avid

(Continued on next page)

outdoorsman and hunter who shot birds in Montana and wild game in Africa; and was a pilot who flew with friends such as ace airman Bob Hoover. Ned was a tall and elegant gentleman, dapper in his dress and particular about manners and grammar. He was a gourmet chef at home and regularly dined at classic Los Angeles restaurants such as Perino's and Chasen's in their heyday. And he made the best Ramos Fizz on the planet.

In November of 1994, on the Orient Express crossing Siberia he met and fell in love with his third wife, Janice. As Ned said to her every day, "God, aren't we lucky." And they were. In their almost 18 years together they traveled the globe including standing on an ice floe at the North Pole sipping champagne, and walking with penguins in Antarctica.

In the final years of his life, Ned participated in Dr. John Ringman's Alzheimer's research program at UCLA. At his memorial service in celebration of his life his "famous" recipe for Ramos Fizz was given to all the friends gathered. We include it here.

Ned Nelsen's Ramos Fizz

Ingredients:

2 Egg whites
 1 Whole Egg
 1 oz. Fresh Lemon Juice
 1 oz. Fresh Lime Juice
 4 oz. Half & Half
 6 oz. Gin (cold from the freezer)
 4 level tsp. Sugar
 Club Soda
 Orange Flower Water

Directions:

- Fill a blender about 1/3 full of ice cubes or crushed ice.
 - Add all ingredients listed above and blend until smooth, about 10 seconds.
 - Pour into Pilsner glasses until almost full. Makes 3 to 4 glasses.
 - To each glass add a splash of club soda and top with 3 or 4 drops of orange flower water.

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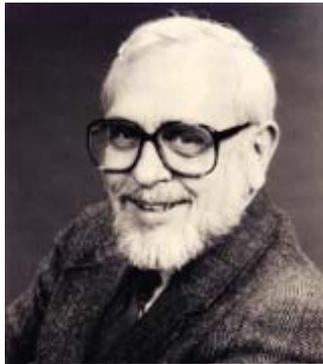
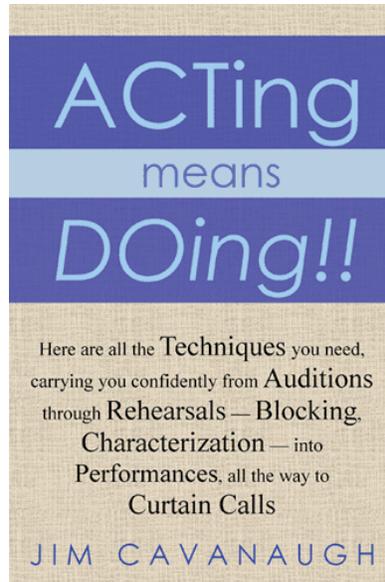
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Jim Cavanaugh (SAS '48) is Emeritus Professor of Theatre Arts at Mount Holyoke College where for 23 years he taught acting and directing and seminars on contemporary theatre and directed 38 productions. He also founded the Mount Holyoke College Summer Theatre where he directed 46 plays and acted in 28 under other directors. Jim studied directing with Lee Strasberg at the American Theatre Wing in New York after receiving a Bachelor of fine Arts degree from the Goodman School of Drama in Chicago. On Broadway he acted in one play and stage managed two musicals, including the Tony Awards one year. He directed two plays off-Broadway. He also directed many plays in commu-



Photos courtesy of Jim Cavanaugh

nity theatres from the mid-west to Heidelberg, Germany. Early in his career he held every kind of job in the production of professional summer theatre plays. He served in leadership on several regional and national Theatre Associations.

Besides all that he learned Russian at SAS and Brown University which led to being a Russian translator for the U.S. Army in Germany and also the translation/adaptation of three plays by Anton Chekhov for regional, community and college theatres across the country.

He is the author of several theatre-related books and many reviews of theatre manuscripts.

Congratulations, Jim, on a mighty distinguished career!

Here are just a few of the many accolades:

“Until this fabulous books, no one had written a clear, practical guide of HOW for the actor: Not only how to talk on a phone but also how to hold the phone while you’re talking. How to trigger the laugh at exactly the right moment; how to hold for it and then build the laugh even higher. How do you include the entire audience when acting in the round? The answers are here for actors at every level.

There is a technique to acting on the stage and this book is the bible of it.

“I’ve been a student of Jim Cavanaugh’s for over 40 years and I still am. You can be, too.”

Michael Walker, actor, director, playwright, producer

“I am now a teacher of Theatre Arts to ‘beginners’ myself, and Jim Cavanaugh remains both my mentor and my role model. Not a day goes by that I don’t invoke the lessons he taught me in the understanding of and appreciation for the craft of acting, honoring the playwright as a member of an ensemble, there for the audience and their ultimate enjoyment.”

**Paula Alekson, M.F.A., Ph.D, Director of High School Programs
McCarter Theatre, Princeton, NJ**

“Jim’s impact on me as a director, a teacher, a theatre manager is so fundamental that it is difficult to imagine who I would be or how I would do theatre without his influence.”

Lindsay Reading Korth, Chair, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Nazareth College

Acting Means Doing available for purchase at www.amazon.com

Finding the Treasure

By Augustine Roberts, OSCO, (Bruce Roberts SAS '50)
Reviewed by Carl Scovel, SAS '49

When we think of someone who marches to the beat of a different drummer or takes the road less traveled by, we rarely think of one who turns his back on marriage, family, possessions, mobility, gratifications and above all the freedom to do whatever one wants. We rarely think anyone who would sacrifice these things would do so for a life of chastity, poverty and obedience in a community of men, none of whom are saints.

The drumbeat which Bruce Roberts heard was inaudible to most of us and the road he took led into a world too demanding for us. Precisely because Bruce's way is so truly counter-cultural some of us might want to read *Finding the Treasure*, his account of what he has been discovering on his journey with the Cistercian order, better known as the Trappists.

SAS Years...

At SAS we knew Bruce as a bright, active extrovert who played basketball and football, went to school dances, did well in his studies, enjoyed his friends, was elected class president and seemed to be headed for the kind of success we all hoped for. We would never have guessed that despite an Episcopalian upbringing, two years at Mt. Hermon and two more at Yale, he would enter and stay in one of the strictest monastic orders in the Catholic Church. This book is an account of his journey, literal and spiritual, interior and exterior.

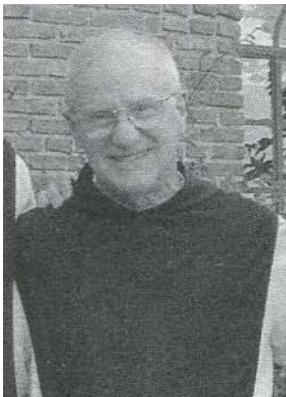


Photo Courtesy of
Augustine Roberts

Becoming a monk and more...

In 1952 Bruce left Yale to become first a pre-postulant, then a postulant, then a novice, then a first professed, then a finally professed monk. This preparation was followed by four years of theological studies, and all this took place in a largely silent community governed by early rising and retiring, three hours of liturgical prayer, two hours of study and meditation, an hour of silent prayer, frequent fasting and considerable physical and mental labor. This life of discipline and denial, which we would find oppressive, became for Bruce his liberation.

After ten years at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Mass. he left it to help found a new monastery in Argentina where he now lives and has become an Argentine citizen. During his monastic career he returned to St. Joseph's to serve as their abbot for 12 difficult years. After that he spent six years jet-setting around the globe, visiting Trappist abbeys and convents on behalf of the Abbot General of the Cistercian order. During this time he also managed to be with us for the SAS Reunion of 2002.

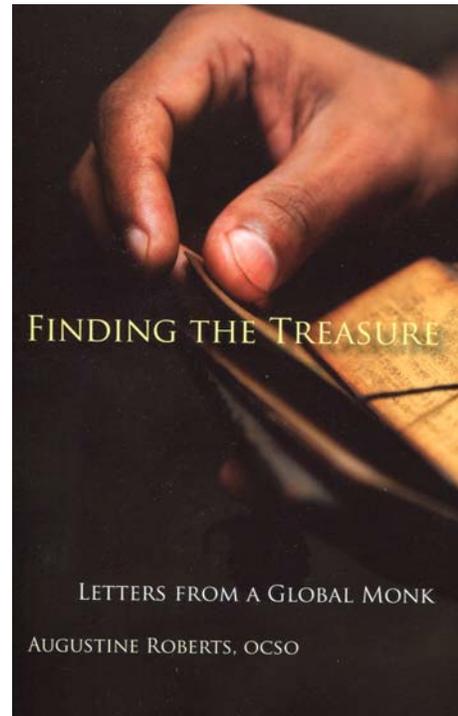


Photo Courtesy of Augustine Roberts

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The big story in this book is not just his life in the community, although that is pretty interesting, but the story of his life within himself and with God. Bruce has an amazing memory for key crises and key visitations in his life and he tells the story of “within” and as well as he tells the story of “without”.

Favorite quotes...

To learn the ground truth of his life one must read the book, but as either a warning or an aperitif, I offer my two favorite quotes. Early in his spiritual journey he says he had to unlearn the common assumption that “personal freedom consists in doing what I want.” He then says, “I grasped, more by intuition than by logic, that my real freedom – my truest self, destiny and happiness – is, and will always be, to know and give myself to *what I was made for.*”



The Trappist Monastery in Azul, Argentina

Photo Courtesy of Augustine Roberts

The second quote is an insight that followed a reproof from his abbot. He says, “I saw in a flash – and for the first time in my life – how heaven and earth are ruled by the law, the principle of self-gift. That is what love is, and that is what true reality is, driving Trinitarian reality and human reality...”

To comfort our conceits we could dismiss Bruce as a conventional Catholic. But then we would miss the story of a real man, our friend, seeking and finding real faith.

The book is *Finding the Treasure*, and it’s by Augustine Roberts, published by Cistercian Publications. You can order it from the Liturgical Press, St. John’s Abbey, Box 7500, Collegeville, MN 56321-7500. And yes, it is also available in paperback and Kindle from Amazon books.

Isabel Best (SAS ’57) “This is an amazing summer for me since I have finally published my own book: *The Collected Sermons of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* in English, edited by me (Fortress Press). Some dreams do come true.”

I quote from some of the cover credits: “Isabel Best has contributed translations to a number of volumes in the English language series of Bonhoeffer’s works published by Fortress Press.”

“In her selection of sermons, with great insight Isabel Best facilitates a unique encounter with one of the greatest and most courageous Christian thinkers of the 20th century...Here are treasures both to enrich contemporary faith and to inspire the coming generation of preachers.” Keith Clements, Former General Secretary, Conference of European Churches

You can see more on this book by googling the title at Fortress Press.

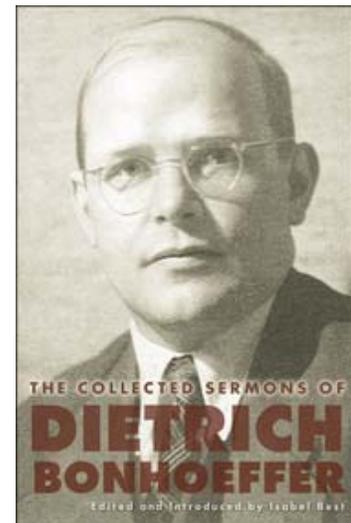


Photo Courtesy of ChristianBook.com

Notes from You

Ronald Koo (SAS '49)

"It was indeed a great pleasure to attend the Centennial Celebration of SAS in Shanghai, although I could not attend all the functions to meet many of my former classmates..."

"I live in Las Vegas, Nevada but spend two months in spring and autumn in Shanghai each year. **Please contact me if any of you will visit Las Vegas for me to honor you as my guest.**"

That's a fine invitation! Ron's email is ron-saninc@mac.com if you would like to take him up on it.



Photo courtesy of
The Columbian

Roy Wildt (SAS '50) Roy has a correction for Deke's book about his brothers. There were five boys in the family. Three of them have died: Robert, Walter and Ernest. Roy and his brother Albert are still alive.

"My grandchildren took us out for Chinese food yesterday (August 12, 2012) celebrating my 80th birthday. I remember the day that I was convinced I would never reach 40. I was 11 years old in Chapei (Internment) Camp when I had those depressing thoughts."

Congratulations, Roy! Many of us, maybe most, share your years of ripening.

Paul Gillespie (SAS '53) Paul caught up with us in emails: he is a retired American Baptist pastor – that's the liberal/progressive arm of the Baptists. He served in churches in Washington, D.C., Providence RI, Madison WI, Hartford CT, and Baltimore over 40



Photo courtesy of
Deke Erh

years. He now lives in Asheville, NC in retirement where he is an "enthusiastic member of the First Congregational Church UCC (United Church of Christ) which is very progressive. I will be going to Nicaragua with 8 others in November hoping to see liberation theology at work there..."

Jim Cavanaugh (SAS '48) In September, Jim moved "lock, stock and 40 years of theatre tchotchkes" from his island home in Georgia to a charming rental home near Dallas – "45 miles south of Kathleen (daughter), and 7 miles north of the rapid transit system that'll take me into the heart of Dallas' arts district in 36 minutes. And it's just 1/10 of a mile from the Mustang Creek Bike Trail!!

"There's a guest room ... which you're cordially invited to come stay in, even tho' I'm no longer on the direct route down I-95.

"My book for beginning theatre people, *Acting Means Doing!!* is out in paperback on Kindle. (See the article.) I hope you'll take a look at its website: acting-means-doing.com for an elaboration of each chapter and some nifty testimonials from lots of fine people I've worked with...I'd be grateful for your review on its site at Amazon.com. (Thanks to those of you who've already posted nice notices.)

"...my decks will be clear to resume writing on my first piece of fiction, ever – *Murder at Summer Theatre* – with each chapter of the mystery taking place on a single day of rehearsals, and set and costume building, *et al* during the daytime while "This Week's Show" plays at night.

"I think the radical uprooting and long-distance move will work, and I know I'll enjoy living near Kathleen and my wonderful granddaughter, Samantha."

Jim is at 1204 Defford Lane, Allen TX 75002

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Pearl Hoffman (SAS Housemother, 48-49)

Mrs. Hoffman sent a long catch-up letter in March from her Gettysburg home. She has been moving between Gettysburg, where some of her family is nearby, and Toronto, where a daughter is in an interesting retirement community called Hesperus Village. She was weighing where to live permanently and seems to have decided on Gettysburg.



Photo courtesy of Don Gardner

She is 92 now. “I get less and less done. It seems that it takes two or three days to do work that I formerly did in an hour or two – letter writing, keeping track of bills, and other paper work. “When I get annoyed with myself for being so inefficient and slow I often remember Parkinson’s law: ‘Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion...It can take an old lady all day to write and post a letter because she has nothing else to do!’ My mental response is, ‘It is not true that I have nothing else to do. I simply have slowed down due to aging!’”

Last fall and winter, Mrs. Hoffman suffered a fall that caused her kneecap to take quite a while healing successfully. And then she got pneumonia for the first time in her life and an infection in her jaw. All of this took some time to heal.

She has interesting Canadian grandchildren: Erik has just graduated from the University of British Columbia, Kelowna and is now working in that Canadian town. His sister, “Sylvia, is an intern on an organic farm near Ghent, NY. Each week a school class with teacher and some parent-chaperones come to live at the farm Monday to Friday. Sylvia teaches them about organic gardening and farm animals. Jonathan, the youngest of the three, fin-

ished a semester in Bangalore as an exchange student at the Hi-Tech Institute. He has returned to the U. of Malmo, Sweden, to finish his computer course there.” There are many other family folks in the Gettysburg area. Her letter ends: “I wish you good health and inner peace. Peace in the world seems to be very elusive. When will we ever learn that we are all God’s children? War and violence only begets more war and violence. Making war is not what Jesus taught us...” Yes, indeed, dear Pearl.

Betty Barr Wang (SAS ’49) writes: “...on Friday (in May) I took Marjie Britton Titus and her husband Paul to several places here.



Photo Courtesy of Betty Barr Wang

Her father, Tom Britton, is the son of Thomas C. Britton, SAS Class of 1937 (now deceased). Her great uncle, Burnett Britton, now living in San Francisco, also attended SAS.

“Marjie and Paul took photos outside the old school on Hengshan Lu (tried unsuccessfully to get in) and then we crossed the road to Community Church, where the gate-keeper was very welcoming. We tried to find their old family home but that area had been rebuilt. They also wanted to find the Columbia Country Club and we had some ‘adventures’ which led to the fact that it still exists but we were not allowed in to see it.

“The end of the morning was the best. I took them to Taikang Lu where Deke wrote beautiful inscriptions in two of his books for Marjie’s father and great uncle. Every one was happy! Deke then showed Marjie photos of the Columbia Country Club in his *A Last Look* and allowed her to take photos of his photos. We were all even happier!

Editor’s note: See what adventures are in store if you visit Shanghai and connect with Betty?!

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Al Wiant (SAS '42) He had not received the Spring issue of SASA News so I sent it to him. His response: "...bless you for sending me a copy of the NEWS. That was a tremendous issue of the paper. My how we have become more sophisticated over the years!

"The SASA organization has surely come a long way from the days that Teddy took over as President...I was the last of the Prez chain of the old prewar classes and under the new leadership the organization really took off!

"As I didn't have too many years at SAS, I always look back on my time there as one of the most life changing experiences of my career. I have never been sorry that I was able to attend – just disappointed that I was unable to graduate there.

"My ability to get around has diminished considerably in the last few years so I doubt I can ever make another reunion – much to my disappointment. I do enjoy reading the SASA News when it comes..."

Thanks for your years of leadership, Al, and for passing SASA along to all of us. Lots of history there!

Anne Lockwood Romasco (SAS '50) Many of you know that Anne suffered a terrible accident in February that put her in the hospital for quite some time and kept her from attending the Centennial Celebration in April. Had she been there, she would have received the "Outstanding Service to SAS" award along with five other alums so honored by SAS. Not to be deterred, Superintendent Kerry Jacobson and Development Coordinator Cindy Easton traveled to Anne's home in Brooklyn in June to present the award.

Anne is recovering remarkably well, despite a set-back in August. Ever at her side, encouraging and keeping life in order, is her daughter Senta. Her son Calem was the communicator to Anne's large group of friends and family and spent many hours at the hospital also. Anne is determined to be with us on the barge.



Out of the Past

From The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury

Tuesday, October 16, 1945

American School Resumes Classes with 120 Pupils

"The former Shanghai American School, now known as the Shanghai American Private School, resumed its activities yesterday with an enrollment of 150 pupils, embracing 20 nationalities. Frank W. Cheney is at present acting principal.

"The teaching staff consists of former APS members and a full curriculum from 1st to 12th grade has been mapped out. Mr. Cheney is also planning to have a kindergarten open by November 1, depending upon enrollment. Up to now 15 applications have been received.

"Text books and library of SAS have been salvaged and will be used by the American Private School and the standard efficiency of pre-war days will be maintained.

"Situated on the premises of the Community Church, Avenue Petain, the American School will soon return to its old site, at present occupied by the U.S. Navy.

"John S. Potter, vice-chairman of the S.A.S. Board of Trustees, it was meanwhile learned, is expected to arrive in Shanghai shortly to take over his company, the Shanghai Realty Development Co. Mr. Potter, formerly of the China Realty Company, is a well-known figure in the American community."



July in the High Desert of Southern Arizona

Excerpted email from Dave Merwin, SAS '53

Dave spent a number of weeks in this high desert with his niece, Ali, her husband, Brett, and their children, Thea and especially Jack (9). During most of this time Thea was in Flagstaff at a music camp focusing on her saxophone playing.



Photo courtesy of Dave Merwin '53

“I spent a lot of time with Jack...Jack and I kept busy buying garden supplies, preparing the garden for planting, and sowing eggplant and cherry tomato seeds and planting squash and blackberry seedlings. We also played Ping Pong and swam a lot – a relief from the early afternoon heat, though often we had to get out of the pool earlier than we would’ve liked because of the arrival of mid-afternoon thunder-and-lightening storms.

“One day the biggest storm yet of southeastern Arizona’s monsoon season, which usually runs from early July into September, raged across the area. As thunder roared overhead and lightning struck nearby, torrential rains and winds swept through like a hurricane. ..

“At the time it hit, I was working in the upper floor of their barn, which we’re turning into a loft/get-away for Thea (15). The space had yet to be closed in completely and the wind and rain swept in through the openings...blowing out all the ceiling panels I had just cut and temporarily installed and sending them flying around the room...I quickly escaped down the loft ladder and into one of the lower barn rooms...

“Since the monsoons arrived, the grasslands surrounding Ali and Brett’s place have been turning green. And the skies crystalline...

“Thought you’d enjoy this story Jack shared with me, told to him by his friend Nick: One day in Nick’s Sunday School class, the teacher asked the kids if they knew who had made all the things on the earth. Nick yelled out, “The Chinese,” drawing roars of laughter from his classmates.

“One of Brett’s friends..recently heard a recording on one of Thea’s performances in which she sings, with backup, some of the songs she composed and wrote the lyrics for herself...he phoned Ali and Brett to suggest that they send Thea to the Berkeley Music Camp next summer. ..at dinner we enthusiastically talked about the possibility of Thea attending the music camp and staying with me.”

Nice summer, nice Uncle Dave, great pictures!



Photo courtesy of Dave Merwin '53

Chocolate Covered Cherries *Arthur Gillespie, SAS '49*

*This story won first place for a favorite Christmas story in the **Gaston Neighbors** newspaper in Gastonia, North Carolina.*

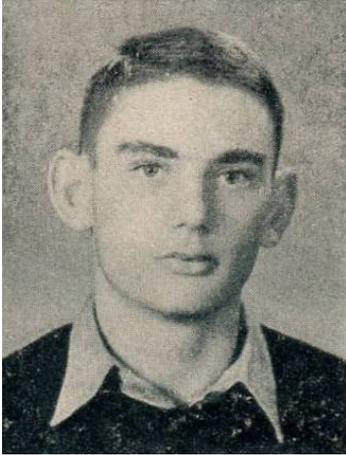


Photo courtesy of The Columbian

The year was 1948. My parents were missionaries to China, and the Communists were overrunning the mainland. It was a dangerous time for Americans there.

At the urging of the U.S. State Department, my mother and we four boys were suddenly evacuated, along with hundreds of other “nonessential” Americans. Father chose to stay on with his school, joining us when school ended in the spring.

When we left by army transport boat, my twin brother James and I were in the middle of our senior year at the Shanghai American School. Brother Paul was in the ninth grade, and David was 4. Stormy weather delayed our ship, and we arrived in Seattle several days late, on Dec. 23. It didn’t seem possible to get our baggage through customs and keep our train reservations for the next evening.

On Our Way...

James and I spent Christmas Eve at the dock and customs office. Finally ... we had gotten through customs and had contracted with the railway express agency to take our trunks to North Carolina.

We rushed back to the hotel, while Mama got the younger boys ready, packed our suitcases and checked out. There had been no time to buy Christmas presents, and we agreed to delay our Christmas until we reached North Carolina five days later. This was going to be hard to explain to 4-year-old David.

We called a taxi and waited in front of the hotel. Suddenly, with a twinkle in her eye, Mama said, “Wait here with your brothers! Make the cab driver wait! I’ll be back in a minute.” She dashed into a nearby drugstore, and several minutes later emerged with a paper bag full of gifts. In her brief shopping spree she had grabbed the first things in sight – a cute little tack hammer that was to serve as a toy for David and boxes of chocolate covered cherries for the rest of us.

The train was crowded with holiday travelers. The Pacific Northwest had just experienced a terrific blizzard. Snow plows had cleared the tracks and drifts were higher than the train in places.

Christmas Morning...

On Christmas morning, we awoke to find that most of the travelers had left the train during the night. The sun was shining brightly on the heavy snow blanket and through the picture windows we saw the beautiful northern Rockies as few ever see them.

All day we watched as herds of deer and antelope rushed out of the mountains toward our train. The government had a program of dropping hay from airplanes and trains for the wildlife, and the sound of our train attracted them. It was a day to relax after the stressing evacuation, to read together the Christmas story in Luke, to reflect on Father’s being left half a world away, to feel the warmth of a loving family. It was a day to eat chocolate covered cherries. That Christmas was 40 years ago (now over 60 years ago)... and every year Mama has given each of her boys a box of chocolate covered cherries at Christmas.

Finding Childhood Haunts in Shanghai

Excerpted and edited from Ted Stannard's email (SAS '49)

All photos courtesy of Ted Stannard

Ted and Femmy stayed on after the Centennial Celebration in April that a number of us attended. "With the invaluable help of 'old-Shanghai-buildings' buff Patrick Cranley, who has been here 15 years in PR and media consulting, FEMMY AND I LOCATED THE OLD 1938 HOME AT 15 RUE POTTIER AND VISITED OUR 1943 'BEDROOM' IN THE CHAPEI 'CIVIL ASSEMBLY CENTER'

"The short Pottier lane is right where I remember it, just around the corner from Rue Lafayette and Blackstone Apartments where I used to go swimming with Eddy Berckman. Same width and length but lined with new buildings...



The house, with patio now instead of lawn. Part of city engineers property.

"Patrick had a 1947 map that showed every plot of land along the lane so we were pretty sure which was our place, but the door seemed well locked." (From the other side) we found a high-security major city engineering government complex with cameras covering the premises in the guardhouse. The security guards got interested in Ted's story and allowed him some access. So "we walked down the drive...and at about the right distance came upon an archway on the left. We turn in and – low and behold – VOILA!...instead of lawn there was

paved courtyard...recently restored."

Back at the guard house a high official" became very interested in Patrick's 1947 map of property lines and uses, so Patrick gave it to him...and he allowed us to go back and take more pictures.

"After we hosted Patrick to lunch at a nearby Hunan Restaurant... on the premises of the old Soong family estate, he volunteered to help us get to the university campus where we were interned for six months in 1943. Then it was part of Great China University, now part of the huge and beautiful East China Normal University campus...

"Just inside the gate, THERE IT WAS, the great long white building of memory! But now it is surrounded by beautifully groomed lawns, trees and walkways...



May 12, 2012 ~Ted outside the premises where the family was interned in 1943.

(Continued on next page)

“Facing the columned front entrance portico, the ball field was off to the left, and the exit I remember was the side entrance to that end of the building. Everything snapped into place! We went inside, turned down the left hallway and left into the corner classroom that we had shared with 5 other families.



Our space for five was on the left just this side of the family of three at the far wall



“I had also remembered a stream flowing by outside the camp barbed wire fence...there it was, now stone-lined and tree-lined with arched bridges where there had been only earthen banks and farm land. But the sense of place came back strongly 68 years later.



SASA Membership Renewal

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