A Triple Celebration
Betty Barr Wang, SAS ‘49

This story begins in September, 2011, when Deke Erh, photographer and publisher, visited the Pudong campus of SAS in order to take photographs for his forthcoming book. While walking along the corridors, Deke noticed the students’ art work hanging on the walls and was very impressed. On the spot, he said to the High School Principal that when the book was launched at his gallery in Tianzifang, now a trendy area of Shanghai for both locals and tourists, he would be happy to have some of the students’ work on display.

The outcome is that on Feb. 12, 2012, Deke’s new book, entitled Deke Erh and 86 Shanghai American School Students and Teachers – 1937-1949, will be launched at his gallery and at the same time there will be the opening of a Centennial Art Exhibition by SAS students. The third ingredient in this mix will be music provided by SAS student and teacher musicians Deke generously proposed that the art exhibition last for three weeks and the plan is, therefore, to invite several groups of musicians to play at the weekends, with the types of music ranging from Western classical (choir at the opening and instruments later) through Chinese classical (a Chinese teacher playing the gu zheng) to jazz, Shanghai’s signature music, and even “Rock ‘n Roll” – Deke’s suggestion!

A beautiful invitation card is being designed jointly by Deke and the school while publicity for the occasion will also be carried out by both sides. The champagne, which will launch the book and the exhibition, will be provided by the school. We wish all the readers of The SASA News could join the celebration!
Preface to Deke Erh and 86 Shanghai American School Students and Teachers - 1937 – 1949

“At SAS, I was neither foreigner nor outsider… SAS was our home country the place of our full belonging.” - Betty Jean Rugh Elder, SAS 1947-49

Deke Erh’s compendium of biographies and narratives is an accounting of the personalities spawned at a single international institution in China prior to the Communist government changeover of 1949. Many of the stories, however, are more about the lives of these same personalities and how Shanghai and Shanghai American School (SAS) created certain attitudes and dispositions in attending students.

During 2011, the 100th year of the school’s existence, I have witnessed first hand a robust strategic planning process through which SAS is designing itself for the beginnings of its second century. Interestingly, the process has given its initial results in the form of this mission statement:

“Shanghai American School inspires in all students:
A lifelong passion for learning
A commitment to live with integrity and compassion, and
The courage to live their dreams”

It doesn’t take the reader of Erh’s entries long to discover that the key elements of this new mission statement have been instilled in SAS students for the past 100 years, too. At the very beginning, Anne Romasco honors the “invaluable heritage” associated with a multicultural upbringing which leads to a commitment to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Betty Barr demonstrates the persistence of a passion for education as she achieves her PhD at age 75. Integrity is the foundation for Carl Scovel’s moving account of his personal struggle to overcome “a deep mistrust of Japanese culture”.

And courage? The book is brimming with examples of those who credit their Shanghai upbringings to a belief that chasing one’s dreams is what provides life with meaning. Perhaps this belief is due to this metropolis, one that Dan Williams deems “the most unusual city in the world.” Dr. Ben Gilson’s wide-ranging efforts at medical pacifism, Dave Merwin’s continuing leadership as a volunteer with present day SAS students on Habitat For Humanity projects, Harold Adolph’s “crisis of belief” that translates directly into 40 years as a medical missionary, and Harriet Refo Locke’s decision to join the Peace Corps at the age of 60 are among the multitude of opportunities today’s students have to understand the personal power granted to those, like Molly Lu Isham, with courage as a defining quality.

This book serves as a commencement for those in the SAS community. In a way, each account is worthy of a diploma at graduation, the recognition of the growth and achievements of successful alumni. But, commencement has another definition - a beginning. And, with our new mission, this volume ushers in a second century with the same core values on display. This is SAS.

Dr. Kerry Jacobson
Superintendent
Shanghai American School
From the Editor  Mimi Gardner ‘52

Many things in this issue – aren’t there always:
We headline with Deke Erh’s beautiful book about us that began at the 2008 SASA Reunion in Salem. It has just gone to press as I write this.
We have a whole section, about the Centennial Celebrations at SAS. Their tag line on all materials – posters, magazines, power-point talks, etc. – is “A rich past, a promising future.” Even though the school is very different now from our experience in its size and diversity of student body, I am struck with the degree of their interest in our history, students and faculty alike, and the ties that are being forged with SASA. Those of us who have been actively involved in this dialog are mightily impressed with the values that are continuing at this most prestigious of international schools. You may also go to the SAS website for more http://iwebpx.saschina.org/centennial/SASCentennial/Home.html.
Quite a number of us will be traveling in April to take part in another aspect of the centennial celebrations. Those details are also among the articles. There is still time to join us. Email me ASAP mimihollister1@verizon.net if you are still considering it.
Another section is about the 2011 SASA Reunion at Split Rock Resort in Pennsylvania. Because they were so interesting, we have included articles related to several of the talks/workshops that were offered. It was a rich time indeed.
And, as always, we share what we’ve heard from you and remember several alumni who have died.
We wish you a very fine 2012.
Notes from You

Harold Giedt (SAS ’42)
A Photo Show at the Yan Huang Art Museum near the Olympic Village in Beijing featured 10 photographs taken by Harold in Tianjin in 1946. The show was scheduled for December 1-7, 2011.

Photos courtesy of Harold Giedt

David Bridgman (SAS ’50)
“Arrived Kunming (November 15, 2011)…”
“I’m learning some ‘Chinglish’ – these are found on signs:
‘DON’T FORGET TO CARRY YOUR THING’ - a needed reminder
‘DEFORMED MAN TOILET’ – haven’t required that yet.
‘YOUR CAREFUL STEP keeps THE GRASS INvariably GREEN’…”
“As author Oliver Lutz Radtke says: ‘Since Chinese grammar is virtually nonexistent regarding inflections, declinations, and past and future tenses, it offers more options to play around than many other languages. This makes Chinese a first-class creativity booster…The reinterpretation of language allows for a tremendous amount of humor…a cross-cultural form of communication.’
“On this trip I get to visit a Yao congregation…and a Dai congregation…Plus I get to see my Lahu ‘witch doctor’ friend turned evangelist…”

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More Notes from You

Peter Dykstra (SAS ’45)

He sent the following poetic note in August, 2011:

“As you arrange for reunion at Split Rock, PA
For meeting friends at Lake Harmony, PA
Planning intriguing programs of war years and internment,
Discussing Christin Yunan Minorities, Lushan Inst. Development,
China’s Jewish Diaspora, SAS today and tomorrow achievement;
Whether swimmette, loungette, gollette, goofette, croquette,
Walkette, dancette or banquet – I sit with sweet-sour countenance.
I regret that infirmities prevent my presence (sour)
Pleasant memories bind my spirit to you all (sweet) in countenance.
So – Reunion enjoy! Oh boy,
will we celebrate together in China in the next life.

Gene Wampler (SAS ’53)

“Although I won’t be attending the SASA reunion next spring I am interested in the people who will attend. I have a collection of ticket stubs from movies we would go to in those days. Those movie dates are among my fond memories of life at SAS. So I wonder if seeing them would bring back memories for others who are attending the reunion. I doubt that any of these theaters still exist but their descendants may live.”

Ann Workman Dwyer (SAS ’55)

I’ve been reflecting on Christmases past…The year was 1946, the month December. We were in San Francisco, excited as we prepared to board the troop ship Marine Lynx. We were returning to China along with other Americans who had left at the beginning of the Japanese occupation…Our parents were delighted to see old friends again. We gathered last-minute supplies in a San Francisco drugstore. While I focused on a stuffed monkey for sale, mother placed a tin wash basin, hand towels and bath soap in my arms – to be my responsibility on the trip. Our quarters on board were the typical bunks, three deep, in the hold of the ship. There were many children, much to our delightful, and also a canteen that sold Hershey bars. I told one new friend that my 10th birthday was on the 22nd, then discovered that we would be crossing the international dateline on that day and it would be “lost.” Would I have to be nine years old for another year? After much sorry, I awoke on my missing birthday to find chocolate bars dangling from red yarn tied to the bunk above and – best of all – a stuffed monkey whom I named Jocko. The ship had taken on bushels of California oranges – a rare treat – and playing chase the oranges as the ship rolled became a wild game. It was an exciting Christmas, leading up to a new chapter in our lives. I never felt deprived, with so many new friends in high spirits, and my fuzzy, huggable Jocko.

(Continued on next page)
More Notes from You

Paul Vander Meer (SAS ’50)
He also wrote a note to Charlie with his dues:
“Thank you for giving of your time to the SAS cause.
“To minimize your efforts, please find my dues for the next 22 years, $330.00. that should carry me through my 100th birthday and relieve me of any nagging worries of ‘have I paid, or not paid, my dues.’”
What a grand idea as we all ripen!

Agnes Alden (SAS ’39)
“I still like to read news about SAS. Both my older brothers have died and my sister who was in 8th grade in ’37 is in a wheelchair.
“I have happy memories of my two years as a boarder at SAS. One day for lunch we had cold sliced boiled potatoes on white bread sandwiches. Oh well, it could have been worse.
“Thanks for the effort you make to keep the memories going.”

Betty Barr Wang (SAS ’49)
Her annual letter tells of a wonderful summer sojourn: “In the summer we two (with husband George) returned to the southwestern province of Guizhou…This time we had the chance to see many more ethnic minority villages than last year, walking up and down hundreds of steps since they are mostly high up in the mountains. We also reveled in the beauty of the province which is full of green mountains, karst rock formations, gorges and tumbling waterfalls. In the nature reserves in one area, Chishui, the rocks are bright red and the huge ferns date from the Jurassic era…As you might guess, a book…is being drafted…
“Our photo is of Dimen ‘Wind and Rain Bridge’…a special architectural feature of the Dong ethnic minority and in our travels we saw many people relaxing in the shelter of such bridges…as you walk along it you see many paintings depicting Dong culture.”

Paul Sherertz (SAS ’39)
Thanks to Jean Stannard (SAS ’41) for sending an article from the 10/10/11 issue of The Fresno Bee about Paul Sherertz. He’s just turned 90. He and his wife, Dawn have been among the 9,000 Yosemite National Park volunteers for nineteen summers. The park has an annual Yosemite Volunteer Awards event. Among awards given to others, Paul and Dawn received the “Enduring Individual Volunteer” award. Congratulations! Will you go for 20?

Margaret Laird Ficken (SAS ’36)
Here’s the note to Charlie Way that accompanied her dues: “I’m sending a bigger check ‘cause I’m sure I’ve ignored the request for dues – use it anyway. Glad I finally am paying you.
“This time I recognized so many lives (I’m ’36) especially Lincoln Brownell – he was my sister’s age as was Mei Kit (Margaret Mac- Donald Getaz – see obituary in Summer, 2011 SASA News). My sister, Katie Laird Klingler, was close to her in spite of Katie being older. Mei Kit’s sister Jean was my age and lived next door at Lingnan University and was a member of the largest class at Lingnan Faculty School, which also included Jane Cadbury, Sean McDonald and me.”

Photo courtesy of Betty Barr Wang
In Memoriam


She was born in Ichowfu, China in August, 1917. She went to SAS at age 14 and graduated at 16. She then traveled by ship to the U.S. by herself and attended Wooster College in Ohio. She earned a V.S. in Chemistry and she met her husband, John Chapman, there. They married in 1941, lived a number of places in the States and then settled with their growing family of 4 in Victoria, BC in 1952. She later earned a degree in education and became a teacher for children with disabilities. John died in 1974.

After retiring, she lived for a time on Hornby Island and then returned to Victoria to be near family – children, grandchildren and great-grands.

“She shared with them her many stories, songs, and inventive activities along with the fresh peas and cherry tomatoes from her intricate, wild and wonderful gardens. She was a Girl Guide to the core and loved singing campfire songs and solving any problem with twisties, paper mache and chicken wire. Janey was as generous with her loved ones and with the many organizations and charities she supported as she was modest, humble and frugal in her own life. She was a unique spirit, as likely to take on the plumbing as microwave cooking or gardening; she had a stick-to-it-iveness and a resourcefulness that was a force to be reckoned with, yet at the same time she had a gentle inner integrity and vulnerability that touched those around her. She valued environmental and social justice, loved chickens, sheltie dogs and above all her family. In the last few weeks of her life she gave this advice to her great-grandchildren: ‘...don’t forget to help other people because that will mean a lot to you in the end.’”

Obituary and pictures courtesy of Jane’s son, John Chapman, who wrote, ”She died at age 93 and always cherished her origins, schooling, and friends in China.”

(Obituaries continued on next page)
In Memoriam continued

Wendell J. Furnas –(SAS Faculty, 1939-40) 1916 to 2011. Information about his life from The Interpreter, a publication of the U.S. Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project. It was written by B.J. Harding, a high school classmate of Wendell and appeared in the 10/1/11 issue. Wendell’s wife, Karen, sent it.

“One of three sons of Edgar A. and Dottie Scoggins Furnas, Wendell’s life can best be described as one adventure after another. Dottie died when the children were small, so the boys were sent to live with grandparents in Peabody, Kansas.

“In Kansas at that time a drivers license could be had for 50 cents, so at age 14 Wendell and brother Bob bought a Model T Ford for $20 and went west to live with Dad, who had moved to Santa Paula…The boys got as far as Albuquerque, sleeping alongside the road and eating what they could find. They awoke in the morning to find their car with three flat tires and a sick engine. They sold it to a passing motorist and hopped a freight train for passage back to Kansas. By 1934, Wendell managed to get to Santa Paula to live with Dad and his new wife, Myrtle Hutchins Furnas. He completed his education at Santa Paula Union High School and was an active member of the “Epworth League” of the Methodist Church…He married Esther, a schoolmate, who later died in 1977.

“Following graduation from high school he went to Ventura Junior College and then to University of California, Berkeley. He graduated cum laude with a degree in English Literature and History.

“Wendell then accepted a teaching position at SAS. In the spring of 1940, Americans were advised to leave Shanghai because of deteriorating relations with Japan. This closed the school so Wendell transferred to St. John’s University as an English professor. Simultaneously he worked as an editor for two Chinese/American language newspapers.

“By this time Shanghai… was taken over by the Japanese. Wendell now attempted to leave the country and traveled under cover of night with a band of escaped Marines and others led by guerrillas. After four days of travel they were captured by the Japanese Army. They were sent to the Bridge House Prison in Shanghai, where they were interrogated and tortured and some were put to death, including some from a Doolittle Raiders bomber. Eventually Wendell was traded for a Japanese in the U.S. who was wanted badly by Japan. Wendell brought back the names and some photographs he had taken and as a result was mentioned in the book Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo.
“Because of his connections with the Swiss Consul, Wendell was deemed the ‘luckiest man in china’ and was sent home on the Swedish ship Gripsholm in the first personnel exchange. When he arrive in Washington, D.C. he joined the Navy as a Japanese language student, and completed a 15-month study to become a translator for Japanese prisoners. Wendell worked in Admiral Nimitz’s Intelligence Center in Pearl Harbor, and joined the Marines on Guadalcanal. He served on an amphibious staff which took the first troops into Korea at the end of WWII, and contributed to the translation of the Japanese hydro charts for the Japanese mandated islands. He served in the U.S. Navy for 30 years, was on the CINCPAC staff, a commandant of the Defense Intelligence School, and served in numerous intelligence areas of the Navy. “Wendell’s life has covered the positions of Naval officer (Captain), author, educator, world traveler, and Santa Paula citrus grower.”

Dan Williams (SAS ’38) wrote: “Like more than 40 of us SAS-ites at the USN Japanese Language School at Boulder’s University of Colorado (including Bill Allman (SAS ’39), Bucky Freeman (SAS ’39), George (SAS’38) and Bob Sheeks(SAS ’40) and me) during WWII, Wendell was faculty for a brief time at SAS at the Pearl Harbor WWII beginning for the U.S. It is a thrilling story, including avoidance of a death sentence by the Japanese at Shanghai’s Bridge House, surprising repatriation on the first MS Gripsholm exchange, and postwar disassembling, as a USN Captain of Adm. Nimitz’ JICPOA Joint Intelligence Center at Pearl Harbor where many of us enjoyed short duty visits during WWII.

Mokanshan Connections

Tim White

My grandfather, Francis Johnstone White was one of the founders of Shanghai Baptist College, later to be called University of Shanghai. Henry Gilbert White, my father, graduated from SAS in 1926 and left China the same year, never to return. His sister Roberta graduated from SAS in 1923, I believe. She returned to China and that is a connection to Angie (Mills, SAS ‘42) since Roberta and her husband George Taylor lived in the Mills’ apartment in Nanjing in 1935.

I thought about going to China to look into my family’s history there, especially Mokanshan, MKS as sometimes referred to in their letters. In my own childhood I recognize now that we often seemed to be searching for and returning to the same kind of summer resort: Baguio in the Philippines, Karuizawa in Japan, Garmisch and Davos in Europe…

Tess Johnston and Deke Erh published a book about the Chinese summer resorts, Near to Heaven. I have not seen it yet. Mark Kitto authored another book revolving about Mokanshan and his life and experience in China, Chasing China. He lives in MKS now and established a restaurant/café there, Mokanshan Lodge. (They have a website.) He may have contributed to the current revival of the area as a tourist destination.

(Continued on next page)
With the help of photos and letters, with my brother and cousins’ archives, and with Mark Kitto’s knowledge and investigation on the ground, we were able to locate the cottage my family had built in 1904. It’s still standing although the upstairs level overhanging the porch has been amputated. I hope to go there in the next month or two and have been collecting documents and photos for Mark Kitto’s and the Mokanshan Lodge’s library, including, for example, the two books by John Espey with references to Mokanshan.

So, I would be interested to contact people who might have similar archives or recollections that they can share with us. Email Tim at twhite@boreal.org.

SASA 2011 Reunion Reports
Ann Lockwood Romasco, SAS ‘51

We, the post war, pre-liberation students of SAS, twenty-six strong, assembled on September 12-16, 2011 at the Split Rock Resort in the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania. Counting spouses and others there were forty-six of us all together. We gathered to attend a reunion of the Shanghai American School Association (SASA). Many of us went to SAS in the post WW II years; a few others attended the school as kindergarten and first graders during the pre-war years.

We were honored that Dr. Kerry Jacobson (Superintendent of SAS), Mona (his wife) and Fred Rogers (the Director of Development at SAS for the past two years) were able to join us for opening day of the reunion. We were also pleased to greet Pearl Hoffman, former supervisor of the girl’s dorm when many of us were boarding students at SAS more than sixty years ago. (Pearl is in the blue blouse, second from right)

Kerry brought with him Centennial banners to grace the walls as well as treasures for the welcoming bags assembled by Cindy Easton (Alumni/Centennial Coordinator) to whom we are eternally grateful.

(Continued on next page)
Included were: a keychain, a buttoner, pens, post-its, note cards with photos from “days of yore”, red balloons, all emblazoned with the SAS/Centennial logo. The coup de gras addition was a cookbook of favorite Chinese recipes, compiled by Teddy Heinrichsohn (SAS Student Body President of 1949 and a master gourmet cook).

On Tuesday morning, Superintendent Kerry gave a spirited and interactive power point presentation of SAS today. He showed corresponding photos of the school today (in color) and yesterday (in black and white) as well as many other photos illustrating classroom and extracurricular life. We learned: that the current enrollment at the two campuses is 3250; that students come from 43 countries; that academic standards are high; that close to 300 students graduate each year; that community service is a requirement for all; that Chinese language and culture is a requirement for all students; and that the school employs 385 teachers. SAS is the only non-profit, independent school in the city of Shanghai; of all the 15 international schools in the city that SAS is the least expensive ($2,700 US).

Kerry described a few of the celebratory activities connected to the Centennial including: a partnership dinner in October involving personnel from the Shanghai City Government and the Chamber of Commerce, the US Consulate, and the SAS Board of Directors. A gala at the Peace Hotel on the bund is planned for April 2011. Kerry issued a warm invitation to alumni who are thinking about attending this and other related events and advised us to make our reservation(s) ASAP as space in the hotel is limited.

In conclusion, Kerry noted that he had to leave shortly to catch a plane that would take him back to Shanghai in order to participate in a Founders Day Celebration. As he spoke, students, faculty, and administrators at SAS were gearing up for the occasion by dressing in period attire to join a parade designed to commemorate the opening of the school in 1912. (See Betty Barr’s article in the Centennial section.)

While the SASA reunion was designed to allow for plenty of free time for socializing (and there was plenty of that) there were also a number of workshops scheduled as part of the festivities. Greg Leck gave a power point presentation on his research into Shanghai of the past and Concentration Camp Experiences. That was followed by Steve Harnsberger who reported on the Lushan Institute, a summer program at Kuling that allows kids who grew up in China to reconnect with their roots and to study mandarin and Chinese art.

Other workshops over the following two days included:

**The Jewish Diaspora in China** – introduced by Carl Scovel (SAS ‘49). Ellis (Jake) Jacob (SAS’49) and Reva Feldman Jolovitz (SAS ’49) gave spirited family histories.

**Families Getting Through the War Years** – a discussion led by Don Ady (SAS ’50). See his own story on page

**The Stillwell Museum in Chungking** – Mike Palmer (SAS ’49) told of his involvement in the dedication of the restored museum.

(Continued on next page)
Working with Christian Minorities in Yunan – David Bridgman (SAS ’50) told of his work. See the article on p. 19 of SASA News, Spring, 2011 issue.

Changes in Birding Practices over 25 years in China – Don Messersmith, husband of Sherry Sherertz Messersmith (SAS ’48) gave a fascinating account. See the article by Sherry in this issue.

Nance Family’s Medical History in China – Walter Nance recapped his 2009 lectures to SAS students on this and also his work with Genetics and Deafness. They were the annual SASA-sponsored lectures.

At a business meeting an important decision was made to hold the next SASA reunion in 2013 in the Washington, DC area. This will enable Susan Dau Fannon (SAS ’50), the alumnae accredited with engineering the first reunion of post war SAS alumni, to attend. Charlie Way (SAS ’51), our treasurer, assured us that SASA was solvent. Following the resignation of Teddy Heinrichsohn (SAS ’49) in 2012, Mimi Hollister Gardner (SAS ’52) and Anne Lockwood Romasco (SAS ’51) agreed take over the reins of SASA as co-chairs.

We missed all who could not be present and look forward to seeing you in Shanghai in 2012 or in Washington DC in 2013.

Engaging Kerry Jacobsen  Mimi Gardner ‘52

At the Split Rock Reunion in September, we had quite a lively discussion with School Superintendent Kerry Jacobsen. I summarize here the notes that I took about questions we asked and Kerry asked:

We - How can SASA support SAS?
More articles in SASA News about school activities and/or excerpts from Kerry’s message in each publication of the school magazine The Eagle.
Kerry - How can SAS best partner with SASA now?
We appreciate communications through your staff person, Cindy Easton. We appreciate you welcoming us as visitors. Transporting us in April, 2012 at the Centennial Celebrations is very helpful.
Kerry - Does SASA have any thoughts about integrating with new alumni, since there is a growing interest among them?
We didn’t coalesce until 20 to 40 years after the SAS years. We need the newer alums to organize themselves and then we can connect with them. Class reunions is one way for them to organize. You said a New York City gathering happens on occasion – around the time you are there recruiting teachers. Some of us from SASA in the area could perhaps join them for a dinner and plant a seed.
The current population is much more international than we were.
An Alumni magazine for support and fund raising is what most schools do, as well as hosting reunions and doing outreach to alums. It’s very important to have an alumni relations staff to carry out such activities and if an endowment is to be developed.
The current Board of Directors should have at least one alumni member for their experience, perspective and to “keep the faith”.
You spoke of creating a Board of Trustees which would have a broader, long-term view. That seems wise.

Making it Through the War Years

Don Ady ’50

The battle of Hong Kong lasted but 18 days. On the evening of day 4, December 12, 1942, we crossed the bay from mainland Kowloon to Hong Kong, at dusk, on a barge. On a second trip over the barge was sunk by gunfire as it debarked. My parents and myself and five other missionary people found shelter about 100 feet up the hill in the house of an absent soldier who had offered it for refugees. Getting there we each carried a suitcase and little else. That evening there were flames hundreds of feet high on a portion of the Kowloon water front, set as it turned out on British orders by a crack detachment of retreating Ghurkas.

In a few coming days bombs knocked out electricity, which also cut off the water and cooking gas. To my relief it cut out the sound of the frequent air raid sirens - oddly the one thing which at age nine had been frightening me. There was frequent but (in most locations) light bombardment by small planes and artillery, with a few 18 inch railroad guns thrown in. Surrender came on Christmas day following so we heard some threats to totally annihilate the population if there were any more delays. We had come through just two close calls in the bombardments.
For hours on Christmas afternoon Japanese soldiers marched down the road that led by the house. Several weeks later we were told to "register" at the Murray Parade Ground. This was no† a mere registration, but a march to imprisonment. Luckily for our small group of seven, we took suitcases, a bed roll, a mess kit, and a few other useful items, and whatever cash was still at hand. Unluckily for many, lulled by the "registration" wordage, they went off to the internment with almost nothing but their walking clothes. Soon, we were marched off in a column of four and split into different low grade hotels. Ours was the New Asia Hotel, today long ago gone.

(Continued on next page)
No food or water was provided, but provisions could be arranged by payment to Chinese runners at the door.

Stanley Internment Camp, our next stop more than a week later, is on the other (South) side of the island past the neck of the Stanley Peninsula. There we had crowded quarters in mostly small rooms, but with a close view of the beautiful sea.

Food was the problem. Soon we all reached a point where a constant hunger was always in mind. One now published figure was about 1740 daily calories provided.

By the repatriation of Americans from Stanley, my dad had dropped 45 pounds, from 165 to 120. I felt too tired to run around and going upstairs became a chore. Nutritional diseases had just started to appear and got progressively worse to the end of the war.

To pass the time, the children had school. Some of us had books, and that is how I passed most of my own time and got most of my own education. People had discussion groups, conversed, studied languages, went to church services, and some staged plays and other public entertainment. A bizarre diversion was a tiger which somehow got on the island and roamed Stanley for awhile. Not a man eater, fortunately, it was hunted and shot, then made the object of a feast by Japanese big shots.

For the most part the Japanese left us alone with our hunger. Chinese etc. who were not interned had a much more dangerous life with very numerous executions, mainly by beheading. That did not happen in the camp until long after the American repatriation. When some radios were found, the owners were beheaded and all internees had to watch that. Cameras were also contraband, if not quite so serious a matter as radios to the Japanese. Any Stanley Camp pictures that survived the war had been taken by a Japanese photographer.

Repatriation was on the ship Asama Maru, in convoy with the Italian Conte Verdi, as far as Portuguese East Africa (later Mozambique). Both of those ships were later in the war sent to the bottom by US subs. In the African city of Lorenco Marques, Japanese internees from the US got off the Gripsholm, Americans got off their two ships, and the exchange was made, going on opposite sides of a parked train and its cars. We returned to New York City with a one day stop in Rio de Janeiro, having regained good nourishment on the voyage. At arrival the Allied cause was near its low point, with mostly good news from there on.

Addendum: In November/December 2011, Don and Barbara returned to Hong Kong and the area of Stanley Internment Camp with a group of survivors, family, friends and other interested persons. Many of the buildings are no longer there, but the house
(See the picture) He was in the third house on the third floor in one room with the 7 family members. The steps where he sat and ate his jook (wet rice) are gone and the house has been freshly painted. There had been and still is a Stanley Prison and the house is now re-inhabited by prison guards. This trip included many interesting sites, including a visit to nearby Cheung Chau Island where Don’s family had lived from 1938-40. The former American houses have been replaced by many new villas. The dirt paths have been paved over and the sparse landscape has been richly planted.

Photo Courtesy of Don Ady

Bird and People Connections in China since 1980
Sherry Sherertz Messersmith ’48

Those who attended the September 2011 SAS Reunion in Pennsylvania saw and heard many amazing videos and talks. One of these talks was by my husband, Don Messersmith, who had been leading birding tours around the world since the 1960s, but he had never been able to get to China until 1982. That year he joined a British expedition to observe birds in NE China, especially cranes, (which led to 13 additional trips over the years) and a special visit with the Nanjing Normal University zoologists. At a banquet there, he was asked what special interest he had in China and he replied that his wife (Margarita Sherertz Messersmith, “Sherry” SAS ‘48) was born in Soochow. That was followed by members of the Zoology Department exclaiming, “We were all born in Soochow!” Further conversation revealed that they had been students at Soochow University and had learned English from my father, Prof. Dwight Lamar Sherertz, and that the whole Zoology Department had been moved from Soochow University to Nanjing. Following this surprising revelation, Don was invited to use part of his 1987 sabbatical leave from the University of Maryland to teach a Course in Ornithology at Nanjing Normal University.

A people connection on my part also brought many surprises. My parents had left Soochow in 1950, knowing their continued contacts with friends could bring difficulties for them. However, before my mother died in 1973, she told me she had faith that we would hear from friends in China eventually. True enough, in 1980 I received through the Methodist Board of Missions a letter from a son of my parents’ best friends in Soochow. His name was William Shen and he remembered my parents well and offered to show me and others to the various sites in Shanghai and Soochow that were connected with my parents’ work.

Although Don got to China first with the birding group in 1982, it was another year before I was able to make arrangements for a tour group. Finally in 1983 I was able to take a group to China. When we arrived in Shanghai, William met us and was most helpful with our tour. In Soochow he took us to Soochow University where my father taught English and where I was born.

(Continued on next page)
Also in Soochow he took us to the Hospital which was started by my great uncle Dr. Walter Russell Lambuth and my grandfather Dr. William Hector Park. At the University, William introduced us to the elderly History Professor, Zhang Meng-bai, who had a wonderful memory of the past and even remembered that when he was a child he was a patient of Dr. Park’s.

In the next few years, we organized more trips to China, both for birds and culture. Then one day I received a letter from Prof. Zhang with some surprising news. He explained that during the Cultural Revolution, the Christian Cemetery at Soochow had been destroyed, including the graves of my grandmother and grandfather. HOWEVER, someone had rescued the bronze urn containing the ashes of my grandfather and had hidden it somewhere during all these past years. We were very touched by this news since we assumed that the person who hid it could have been in personal danger for doing so. We were especially grateful to realize the love and appreciation that must have been felt for my grandfather.

As the story of our contacts continued, in 1986 when Don was in Soochow, he was shown the actual urn in the office of the hospital administrator. Following that, our family with the Chinese began making plans for a reburial of Dr. Park’s ashes. It was decided that the urn should be reburied outside of Soochow in a new Christian Cemetery on a hillside overlooking Lake Tai.

Friends from the hospital and university, and representatives from the church we had visited that morning went with us for the reinterment. Since then we have visited the grave several times. The last time was in 2007 when we took one of our daughters, a niece and three nephews. One of our nephews, Bill Sherertz, will take over contact with the cemetery now.

One final contact story: My parents had always wanted to help the Shen children come to America for additional education. When we made contact with William Shen, his school years were long passed. However, he and his wife had two children who were ready for graduate education. We sponsored them and they enrolled at the University of Maryland. Their son, Naiming Shen, came in 1984 and their daughter, Naiping Shen, came in 1985. They lived with us as members of our family. They completed their master’s degrees in computer science and microbiology. Now they live in California, have successful careers, and keep in close touch with us.
SAS Centennial Celebration, April 18-25, 2012

Tentative Program (as of November 1, 2011)

Wednesday, April 18    Arrive in Shanghai and settle in

Thursday, April 19     Visit Old SAS on Heng Shan Lu and the Community Church Enjoy free time to explore

Friday, April 20       A visit with Tess Johnson at the Taikang Lu publishing house Afternoon sports on the Puxi Campus Evening performance on Puxi Campus by renowned Shanghai Opera Dance Troupe performing Two Stage Sisters.

Saturday, April 21     Free time with optional tours such as a river cruise, the famous Shanghai Museum and several other wonderful museums Evening Gala at the fabulous Peace Hotel – the Honorable Stapleton Roy keynote speaker. Among other distinctions, he was a former U. S. Ambassador to China and is an SAS graduate, Class of 1952

Sunday, April 22       A visit to Jinze – the amazing and lovely country home of Deke Erh

Monday, April 23       A visit to classes and events on the Puxi Campus, including a lunch hosted by the parents’ association.

Tuesday, April 24      A visit to the Pudong Campus with a similar schedule to Monday A farewell Peking Duck dinner at the Hyatt on the Bund – said to be the best in Shanghai.

Wednesday, April 25    Departures – or a longer stay in Shanghai

If you wish to be a part of this experience and have not yet made your reservation, please be in touch with Mimi Gardner ASAP at mimihollister1@verizon.net. Phone: 781-910-2376.
April Travelers to Shanghai

Teddy and Andrea Heinrichsohn
Mimi Brewster and Don Gardner
Angie Dickenson
Anne Lockwood Romasco
Burney Refo Medard
Martin and Joanne Overholt
Ted Stannard and maybe Femmy
Lois Pringle and daughter
Marian and John Heidel
John and Rose Marie Hendry
Harold Snuggs
Elizabeth Young Roulac
Peggy Smythe Bell and daughter
Mayna Avent Nance and Walter
Joan Ding Hsu

David and Gartha Angus
Joe Wampler
David Merwin
Stapleton Roy
David Bridgman

Others we hope will join us:

Roy and Darlene Wildt
Peggy Callahan
Charlie Way
Molly Lu Isham
Ellis Jacob
Richard Kim
Sherry and Don Messersmith

And you?

What Founders’ Day Meant to Me

By Betty Barr Wang, SAS ’49 as written for The Eagle, October 2011

As the only pre-1949 alum now living in Shanghai, I had the privilege of being invited to join in the celebrations on both campuses of the very first SAS Founders’ Day, on September 16. I was dressed in a 1912 costume kindly provided by the school though, as I said at the ceremony, I was not in Shanghai 100 years ago! (Only 60+ years ago.)

The most profound meaning of the occasion to me was that the whole school participated in remembering and honoring its 100-year-long history. This reflected the hard work of many people and especially the Centennial Committee and its indefatigable coordinator, Cindy Easton, in promoting the event. From the smallest dresse-up pre-K child walking round the track on an unusually hot morning at Puxi, to the parents, similarly dressed-up, in the Pudong gym in the afternoon, all of us had fun!

On both occasions a happy atmosphere was created by the bands that played as we all gathered. For me, personally, an emotional moment was when the choir, accompanied by the band, sang “All Hail to Thee, Our Alma Mater Blest.” That school song was composed by John Hsu, my ’49 classmate, who went on to become an eminent cellist and teacher of music at Cornell University. The lyrics were written by Ted Stannard, ’48, whose flair for words continued throughout his career as a journalist and teacher of journalism in universities in both East (Indonesia) and West (US).

With a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes, I sang along with the choirs. Now I look forward to doing so again when many of my contemporaries come to Shanghai in April 2012 to join in the festivities. But there was more to come on that first Founders’ Day – the singing of a new school song, the music and lyrics both by John Leonard, a music teacher on the Pudong campus. The title of the catchy song is “Shanghai American School – You Belong!” and underneath the title is written “2012 Centennial Dedication to Alumni.” Thank you, John, and all the teachers and students who performed that song – seemingly just for me, the only alumna present on that day. Yes, we all – students, teachers, parents, administrators, and alumni – belong!

Addendum from other notes by Betty: Upon visiting the elementary school on the Puxi Campus after the parade, the first question asked in each classroom was “Where’s Teddy?” Teddy made a great impression during his visit in April because he talked about pranks he remembered from our era. I assured the children he would be coming next April.

Later, the Elementary Principal told me that these days they are having a morning announcement over the loudspeaker during which elementary students are taking turns to read snippets from Angie’s book. In this way they are learning about the history of the school.

At Pudong, after singing “All Hail...”, I told them that Ted Stannard would be coming next April and I hoped they would sing the song again for him.”
Remembering Clark Johnson, SAS 1931

By Greg Macintyre, Elementary Academic Support Teacher, Pudong Campus
Borrowed from The Eagle, September 2011

With Founders’ Day and centennial celebrations all around us, I can’t help but feel a truly deep connection to this school. SAS first opened its doors in 1912, and it was only a year later that my grandfather, Clark Johnson, was born in Nanchang, about two hours from Shanghai. He was the second youngest of four children, all born in China. My great-grandparents came to China in 1900 as Methodist missionaries and in total they spent close to 40 years here. My grandfather spent his early childhood in Nanchang, and began attending SAS in the seventh grade…Judging from his 1931 senior year book, he was involved in just about everything SAS had to offer! He wrote for the school newspaper, acted in school plays, sang in the Glee Club, managed the boys’ dorm, and played varsity sports. As the varsity coach now for the SAS Pudong tennis teams, it is truly special to me to know that my grandfather was the captain of the SAS boy’s varsity tennis team back in 1931.

After graduating in 1935 from Northwestern University in Chicago, where he studied chemistry, he returned to Shanghai where he would become the branch manager for Abbott Laboratories. His job was to introduce western-style medicines to the local pharmacies in Shanghai and other parts of China. In 1937 he was evacuated from Shanghai due to the war…My grandfather enjoyed an esteemed career in international business that allowed him to travel all over the world. Towards the end of his 40-year career he became the vice president of Johnson and Johnson International and managed the Far East division. Clark Johnson was a wonderful man and I always felt lucky to have him as my grandfather. Incredibly, I did not even know that he had attended SAS until after I started working here.

Although he passed away in 1996, long before I became a teacher at SAS, I know that his spirit is with me as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of his alma mater.

Editor’s note: My father, also the son of Methodist missionaries, graduated from SAS in 1924. I have his senior yearbook called The Nooze (such a name! but such a treasure!). This is what is written beside his senior picture: “Brewster has earned for himself the reputation of being the most ‘all-around’ boy in the Senior class. He is an athlete of no small means, a public speaker, and a good scholar. He has a strong influence for good in the student body. It may be said of him more truly than of any other boy in the class of ’24, that ‘he picks his task and sticks to it until it is accomplished.’

Wow! He returned to China as a medical doctor as soon as he had finished his internship/residency.
Paid Up Members of SASA Through 2012 (And Many Beyond)

Agnes Alden  Eleanor Barr  Peggy Bell  Betty Blakney  William Braisted  David Bridgman  Joanne Butler
Peggy Callahan  Charles Campbell  Hans Conrad  Mary Craighill  W.H. Daub  Ann Dwyer

B.J. Rugh Elder  Susan Dau Fannon  Bruce Ferguson  Margaret Ficken  Nancy Francis
Mimi Gardner  Bob Giedt  Jeff Gorman  Jerry Grieder

Dorothy Hallett  Marian Heidel  John Hendry III  LetaMay Hodge  Mary Howland
Joan Ding Hsu  John Hsu  Molly Isham  Alice Johnson  Reva Jolovitz

Jacqueline Katho  Eugenie Knorn  Ronald Koo  Donald Landwehr  Edward Liang  Charlotte Locke
David Merwin  Sherry Messersmith  Angie Mills  Evelyn Moulton

Marion Naifeh  Mayna Nance  Janice Nelsen  John Nichols  Martin Overholt  Michael Palmer  Lois Pringle
Lois Pryor  Delma Romano  Anne Romasco  Susan Richardson

Jean Schuster  Elizabeth Shippee  Patricia Silver  Carol Simonson  Dalice Snyder  Ethel Socolar  Stella Solar
Stephen Sopher  Ted Stannard  Sarah Steel  Mary Stimpson

Helen Thomas  Dorothy Thompson  William Tucker  Paul Vander Meer  Charlie Way
Sterling Whitener  Don Whittaker  Roy Wildt  Doris Williams  Jenna Worden  William Young

Many of you are paid through 2011, in fact, anyone who sent in any amount last year is considered paid up thru 2011. Thank you! A new year, new dues! If you are not on the above list, please send $15 (or more) to Charlie Way, 222 Highland Drive, Bellingham WA 98225 and write SASA Dues on the memo line. That $15 puts you up-to-date no matter how far in arrears you may be. It’s easier on the bookkeeping. How’s that for a deal once again!

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