Happy Year of the Horse

If you google “Year of the Horse”, here’s some of what comes up:
Born in this year, you are most likely cheerful, skillful with money, perceptive, witty, talented and good with your hands.
In your company are such as Rembrandt, Harrison Ford, Aretha Franklin, Chopin, Sandra Day O’Connor and Teddy Roosevelt. In the Chinese Fortune Calendar it suggests that this is a wooden horse year so it should be a green horse – an auspicious symbol of high rank and noble leadership. Surely we all fit in here somewhere, horse folks or not.

From the Editor  Mimi Gardner ‘52

“In Memoriam” is so full of folks this time! What struck me most was how hardy, interesting, and generally long-lived we China-connected people seem to be. In addition to all those memorials, we are weaving in some poetic reflections, a very perceptive and funny story, some good books by alums, Paul VanderMeer’s next section of his micro-enterprise development study in Taiwan, and various other things of interest to me and hopefully also to you. Please know your contributions – your writings, your adventures, your comments - are very welcome at any time as I gather material for this newsletter.
We are posting the dues update list because some of you who receive SASA News on-line have told me that you have no idea when you last paid dues. We hope this is helpful and is reasonably accurate. Charlie and I do sometimes make mistakes.
Joining Multiple “Small” Roscas

A critical feature of rosca management is that it is safer to join multiple rosca circulating “small” sums rather than one or two rosca circulating “large” sums. This is self-evident. For this reason, individual rosca may appear puny and seem to have been neglected in the research and literature relating to economic growth in developing countries. What is not self-evident, however, is that farmers and businessmen (petty capitalists) may join eight, twelve, or even more “small” bidding rosca operating concurrently, some meeting monthly, quarterly, or semiannually. Donald R. DeGlopper, 1995, makes this point. He wrote: “…businessmen prefer to obtain credit from a large number of sources, like the people in twelve different rotating credit societies [rosca] that a shopkeeper or owner of a handicraft enterprise may belong to, rather than be indebted to one source, like a bank or a rich man.” But there is more to it than that. Having shares in multiple rosca gives members a standing line of credit that can be accessed at any time. Most important, it allows them to win simultaneously, consecutively, or both, in several rosca when extra large sums are needed. It also allows them to win in that rosca which best fits the monetary sum they need, or which requires the smallest bid (interest payment) to win. This explains why farmers and businessmen prefer bidding rosca to lottery or discussion rosca, which cannot accommodate the timeliness of bidding rosca. For these reasons, the financial utility and power of rosca are best understood by studying households and the rosca they join, not by studying dozens or even hundreds of rosca.

So it is that 30 (23%) of the 130 participatang Chulin households held 50% of the 654 shares held by Chulin households. Each of them withdrew an average of US ≈$36,533 from the Chulin rosca and together they withdrew a total of US ≈$1,096,000. From the shares they held, exactly 100 shares were taken simultaneously. On six occasions, three shares were taken simultaneously while on 41 occasions two shares were taken simultaneously. Consecutive wins were more commonplace, as 162 shares were taken consecutively.

The most active household, a village shopkeeper who represented his son—a building contractor in Taipei—had 21 shares in 20 of the 60 rosca. He won simultaneously on six occasions; one involved three shares while the other five each involved two shares. Most striking was a simultaneous win in two rosca that netted him US ≈$17,600. As several of the simultaneous wins were affiliated with consecutive wins, this household had one consecutive win involving six shares, and others involving five, four, and three shares. The longest series of consecutive and simultaneous wins netted him US ≈$35,430. In all, this household received a total of US ≈$78,005 from the Chulin rosca, from which 75% went to his construction business and a restaurant, while 16% went to savings and contributions in other rosca, and 9% went to domestic consumption.

One household had only two shares in the 60 Chulin rosca and won both simultaneously to help purchase a house outside of Chulin.

**Microfinance Chinese Style—Part 4**

*Paul Vander Meer, SAS ’50, Hung Mu-shan, William F. Slusser and Luo Na*

Searching for the highest bid

- This is a continuation from the previous two SASA News issues -
The Cantonese are a noisy, outspoken and friendly people for whom an innocent exchange of greetings sounds like threatened mayhem to Westerner ears. While we in the West consider personal questions to be rude and intrusive, the Cantonese thrive on intrusiveness and consider such questions to be essential for establishing one’s social and financial standing in the community. It is helpful to understand this point of view if one is to live in proximity to the Cantonese.

When we lived in Hong Kong back in the 60’s, international and cross-racial adoptions were rare. So the unusual sight of a Caucasian woman pushing two Chinese toddlers in a stroller attracted a good deal of attention in the open-air market near our apartment. “Are those your kids?” was a question often yelled at me from across the street. Recognizing it as a polite and genuinely interested inquiry, I usually yelled back, “Yes!” Then the questioner invariably would protest, “But they look Chinese!”

To respond to this remark I could decide on one of two choices: I could look at my toddlers appraisingly and say in a wondering tone of voice, “Yes, they look Chinese, don’t they?” and serenely walk on. Or I could opt for a less enigmatic response and explain that we had “carried the girls home: which is how the Cantonese say “adopted”.

When Jenny and Renee were five and four years old respectively, we carried them home to the States where they became United States citizens and grew up in Philadelphia.

Fast Forward:

Thirty years later Jenny is now living in Hong Kong with her Swiss husband and their two children. I am visiting, on vacation from my job in Philadelphia. In many ways Hong Kong is much more chic and sophisticated than before. But many of its Cantonese characteristics still come through – as they did one recent afternoon when Jenny and I were shopping in a sleek boutique on one of Hong Kong’s main shopping streets. We are trying on brocade jackets, assisted by a young woman with a stylish haircut, heavy make-up, fluorescent nail polish, and an assertive but imperfect command of the English language.

“Mom,” says Jenny trying on a jacket in front of a mirror. “What about this?” As usual, she looks stunning. I am about to give that as my opinion when the sales clerk, who has been looking back and forth from me to Jenny, loudly interrupts our conversation by asking Jenny incredulously, “She’s your mom?”

Jenny replies with a hint of fatigue in her voice, “Yes.” Unconvinced, the clerk turns to me for verification, “You her mom?” “Yes!” I say as if she was hard of hearing.

Suddenly I perceive the huge gap the clerk must see between Jenny and me: I – Caucasian and short, slightly overweight, light-brown undisciplined hair, and face moist with perspiration – Jenny, Asian and tiny, cool and slim, with almond eyes, delicate features and a smooth veil of jet-black hair. How could I possibly be her mother?

Understandably doubtful, the clerk double checks the facts once more: “She your daughter?!” she asks me.

“Yes,” I say again, hoping this will be the end of it so I can stop feeling dowdy. “But she look Chinese!” the clerk protests.

(Continued on next page)
I look Jenny over appraisingly: “yes, she does, doesn’t she?” I finally agree with puzzled surprise.
“Maybe her father Chinese?” the clerk suggests helpfully. “No,” I say. “He’s an American.”
“He born America?”
“No, he was born in Iran.”
There’s a pause while the clerk recoups her resources and returns to where we started. “You Chinese.” She tells Jenny firmly
“No,” says Jenny. “I’m American.”
Undeterred the clerk plows on: “You!” she says pointing to me. “Where you born?”
“In China.”
There is profound silence. Jenny and I are getting ready to tiptoe out the door when the clerk, who has been staring into the middle distance, suddenly comes to life. “Ah hah!” she cries. “I know!” She looks at Jenny and speaks slowly.
“Your mom born in China so you look Chinese!” She announces her conclusion with all the unquestioned assurance of her Cantonese heritage.
To be frank, the above account may not be accurate. Neither Jenny nor I can remember precisely how the sales clerk arrived at the solution to her problem. I did say that maybe we should have told her that Jenny was adopted. “No way!” said Jenny emphatically. “It’s none of her business!”
But from the Cantonese point of view, it was.

## In Memoriam

**Erik March Hansen ’50** died on December 22 at the age of 81.
Information from *San Francisco Chronicle*, 12/27/2013
Erik was born in Shanghai to Johannes and Elena (Linsky) Hansen. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service in San Francisco for 30 years, starting as a mail carrier and ending as a Supervisor before he retired in 1989. He had no children with his first wife, Evelyn, who predeceased him. When he married Madeline, he inherited a wonderful family of step-children and grandchildren. It seems evident from Erik’s smiling picture that he made friends easily and apparently he kept many friendships over the years.

**Barry Coats ’50** wrote, “Erick and I had exchanged emails a couple of times a month ever since we renewed our friendship at the Gatlinburg Reunion. I will certainly miss him.”

Erik especially enjoyed his dogs and was well-known at dog parks around town and hiking in Brionnes. His friend, Mark English, spent many hours with him helping him to stay active in what he enjoyed doing the last months of his life.
Erik’s wife, Madeline, wrote, “It was not unexpected but still, it came much quicker than I was prepared for. He was here at home and was comfortable.”

(Continued on next page)
Raymond Henry Giffin ’34 died on January 6, 2014 at the age of 96. Information courtesy of his daughter, Pat Giffin Hanberry. The Rev. Raymond Henry Giffin died peacefully at Quincy Village, Quincy, Pennsylvania. Ray was born in Guangdong Province in 1917 where his parents, John Harry Giffin and Annie Milne Giffin were missionaries with the American Baptist Board. Home schooled for the first 12 years, he then attended Shanghai American School for five years, and completed his high school education at Denfeld High in Duluth, Minnesota in 1934, the same year that both of his parents died. Ray earned his B.A. from Denison University and his M. Div from Oberlin Graduate School of Theology in 1942. He married the former Jean Yoder in 1941 and the two became Congregational missionaries to China, serving in Fuzhou, Fujian from 1947 to 1949, leaving with their two small girls when the Communist Party came into power. Your Editor has enjoyed some email exchanges with Pat since our parents served in the same city, though Pat is much younger.

Ann Marie Ball Cook ’54 died in October 2013 at age 77. Information and pictures courtesy of The Bryan-College Station Eagle Ann was born in Mombasa, Kenya in 1936, the daughter of Marjorie and C. W. Ball. Her father was an engineer with Caltex Petroleum Company. His job took the Ball family to many locations: Bombay (Mumbai) and Sri Lanka from 1939-1942. American women and children were evacuated from foreign locales when WWII began. The Ball family lived in New York City from 1942-1946. Then they went to Shanghai where Ann and her sister attended SAS from 1946-48. When they left China, they lived in Louisiana for a time and then moved to Manila until 1950 when they returned to Baton Rouge. After high school, Ann enrolled in the diploma nursing program at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital and became a registered nurse in 1957. She met her husband, Bob Cook, in 1959. After two weeks of dating, he proposed to her and they were married 3 months later. Bob was with the Immigration and Naturalization Service which took him to a number of cities during his career, including San Antonio, Anchorage, Hong Kong and Dallas. They had three daughters. During the course of the transfers, Ann worked as an OR, PACC and CCU nurse in various hospitals and was a relief nurse in the Health Unit at the American Consulate in Hong Kong. After Bob’s retirement in 1986, they lived in Garrison, Texas for 10 years before moving to College Station, Texas in 1996. Ann worked in the OR and recovery room at Nacogdoches Medical Center, retiring in 1992. Ann had a 10-year battle with cancer that she “handled with grace, dignity and a sense of humor.” Bob died a few years before Ann.

(Continued on page 7)
Reflections from the Monastery in Azul, Argentina, January 2014
Mary Newman McMahon ’52

Mary emailed that her “two weeks in Argentina were superb. Bruce Roberts, ’50 (Father Augustine) and I spent a few days in Buenos Aires watching tango and going to museums. Then I spent a week at his monastery in Azul…”

“This Trappist Monastery, Our Lady of the Angels, was founded 50 years ago by the Trappist monks in Spencer, MA. It took years to build, and the monks were involved in every aspect of the process. It sits in the middle of 2000 acres of pampas, most of which is pasture for the Hereford cows, who provide the major support for the 18 monks who live there, devoting their lives and hard work to God. During the time I was there, the area was suffering a serious drought. The monks worried about their crops, watching daily for clouds, checking their fields of soybeans and sunflowers and corn for vital signs.

In the middle of the pampas plains, the tall brick facade looms majestically. The bells echo over the thirsty grass where the cactus and thistles revel and the sunflowers bow their heads. The bright green soybeans flourish barely while the corn sadly wilts. The cypress clumps stand silhouetted against the distant hills, dotted with boulders.

The constant wind, like a blast from God’s furnace, which can shift to a breeze from hell’s ice keeps the brittle arid grass moving. Tiny wild flowers peep through the dirt but the hydrangea blossoms are shriveled. The eucalyptus shed their bark which crackles when I step on it; noble trees that teach us to let go of our veneers, and offer the fragrance of their seeds.

Bells mark the prayers every few hours from long before dawn to after sunset, calling the monks to their devotions. At 5:30 the angelus calls me to vespers. The stained glass depiction of our lady greets me as I enter the church. The great vaulted brick arches like a medieval cathedral stirs my “holy longing”. The monks file in silently, slowly finding their seats where they drop in prayer. The black scapula starkly contrasts with their pure white hooded cassocks. Some are ancient, bent in half; the others are bent in reverence. The soul-wrenching tenor raises his voice heads lift as they join in unison and the organ discreetly provides the harmony. At 7:30 they are back for compleatas. Working and praying since 3 AM they are tired, but still devout. Their changing sounds like a lullaby. The bells send them to their beds. The back window is on fire with the sunset as I leave this place of God.

(Continued on next page)
In Memoriam, continued

Information courtesy of Patriot-News.
He was born in 1917 to Presbyterian missionaries, Herbert and Eleanor Thomson in Guanzhou. He grew up there with his three sisters, Carol, Mae and Avis and numerous cousins. His grandparents were also missionaries there. He attended a one-room schoolhouse through the 8th grade and then went to SAS through high school. He went on to Princeton, and then Princeton Theological Seminary, Columbia University and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Along that way he earned his Doctorate in Economics and taught at Dickinson College and Berea College and “most of his career in economics was as a faculty member at Muskingum College from 1961 to 1992.” Dr. Thompson was also an ordained Presbyterian minister and served as a teacher at the Gerard Institute in Sidon, Lebanon and then as a pastor in New York. In his later years he was “Stated Supply Pastor” of the North Salem Presbyterian Church until age 93, in Kimbolton, Ohio.
He loved to travel, hike and read as well as to play tennis and explore family history.

Where are you? Juliet asks.
I am here, Romeo responds,
Over and over the doves call.
Will they ever find each other?
The old garancho worries out loud:
Au, you poor kids, so sad.
A few little birds try to intervene
with a hopeful chorus
but the old pigeon mutters her lament
as the lovers continue their search.
When the sun sets, all is quiet:
then the wild fox creeps out of the brush
and the frightened scurries off.
The old lizard saunters by fearlessly.
Paradise at night?

Along the fence, cows stare between the Nile lilies,
blinking in the hot sun;
patiently waiting...for what?
for water and shade, they move on
walking slowly like the monks.
Cows of God?
providing sustenance for the men of God.

Walking up in the hills I watch for snakes.
Instead I hear tiny firecrackers;
the crickets flashing out of their sleep.
Like becoming accustomed to the dark,
the silence offers in-sight.
I become aware of what not noticed before,
open to following distractions,
serenely resting, I the silence,
receptive to contemplation.

Questions float up:
does this life-long commitment
to poverty, chastity and obedience
have to involve martyrdom?
Or does the peace provide vitality?
Does renouncing family life
offer a different way of being?
What is the nature of their love?

(Continued on next page)
Christine Hofmann Metcalf ’36 died in early December, 2013, at age 95. Information courtesy of her daughter, Margaret Metcalf. “Christine was born in Canton (Guangzhou), China and never forgot the unique experiences from her first 20 years there. She remained particularly close to her childhood friends from the Shanghai American School. After graduation, she came back to the U.S., attended the College of Wooster and then received a nursing degree from Case Western Reserve. Her nursing career included a stint in the army during WWII, as well as practicing public health and midwifery nursing in New York City. “In June, 1957, she married Richard Metcalf, inheriting a 7 year old daughter Renate. They moved to Chevy Chase, Maryland and there she gave birth to Margaret in 1960. In Chevy Chase she maintained a lovely garden, including a large raspberry patch. She did volunteer work at her daughter’s school and in her church and kept her China connection up through Asian-American Women’s forum. “She consistently prepared “heart healthy” meals from scratch which kept our father healthy and fit and set an example for us about the importance of a healthy diet. “In 1980 they moved to Lesotho, Africa for 2½ years which was an excellent adventure. After returning they continued to travel extensively, including 17 Elderhostel trips. She and Papa doted on their four grandchildren, Ben and Angie, Charley and Susanna. Her great-granddaughter Sasha, age 2, spent a week accompanied by her mother Angie at Fairhaven, where Christine was living at the end of her life.” And from Renate, “Christine’s parents met in China where both went as Presbyterian missionaries. Her mother was teaching and her father was a doctor, training local doctors and nurses in Canton. The four children all attended SAS after they were junior high age. The unattended trips to and from Shanghai on (the coastal steam) ships were real highlights of their youth. She left china after the Japanese invaded prior to WWII.”

Ann Curtis Holsapple ’39 died in July, 2013 at age 91. Information courtesy of Salem Funerals and Cremations obituary. Ann was born in 1921 at Loma Linda, California to Brigadier General Merritt Curtis, U.S.M.C. and Frances Bracewell Curtis. She was educated in public schools in several cities in the U.S. and also Peking American School and SAS. She finished high school in Swarthmore and then was a cum laude graduate of Harcum Junior College. She also studied at Corcoran Art School in Washington, D.C. She did volunteer work for the American Red Cross, including driving for the Red Cross Motor Corps in D.C. after Pearl Harbor and was an aircraft spotter at Mayport, Florida while her husband, Henry Holsapple, was attached to the Inshore Patrol Base there. She and Henry had two sons. She lived in Greenwich CT for a time and continued with the Red Cross and joined the Connecticut Playmakers as a volunteer. On moving to Winston Salem later she was active with the Symphony and Ballet and was asked to open the “Pink Lady” gift shop at the new Forsyth Memorial Hospital. When the PGA Championship was held at Tanglewood in 1974, she was co-chair of the Ladies Committee and was a member of the Piedmont Golf Association. She was a dedicated golfer and once got a hole-in-one. She also enjoyed life at the coast, swimming and oil painting.
Jennivieve Tootell Westwick, '36, died in October 2013 at age 95. Information courtesy of Laurel Westwick Cox. She was born in Chenzhou, Hunan, China in 1918 to Dr. George and Anna (Kidder) Tootell. Her father ran the hospital in Changdeh as a missionary doctor in central China for over 38 years. Jennivieve was home schooled through 4th grad and then went to school in Kuling and Shanghai. She left China at the age of 15 to attend high school and then Wooster College in Ohio, followed by nursing school at Columbia University in New York City. There she was active in peace, civil rights, and social justice issues, including working with Bayard Rustin who was an organizer for the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington. After nurse training she moved to California to attend Chinese language school. She met Orwin Westwick while he was doing alternative service at a Civilian Public Service Camp and they married in Berkeley in 1946. Jennivieve worked as a school, clinic, and public health nurse in the Bay Area. She was very active in community civil rights activities. In 1968, they moved to Fairbanks, Alaska, where they spent 24 years. They were active in reviving the Chena Ridge Friends Meeting. Jennivieve worked as an itinerant public health nurse in central Alaska for the state and for the Tanana Chiefs Conference native corporation, visiting villages and training village health aides. When first in Alaska, Jennivieve and Orwin lived in a 14’x16’ log cabin for several years, then built a 30’ concentric yurt to live in as they built a double hexagonal log house and shop. After retiring, they enjoyed many trips, including flying to New Hampshire in their Navion plane and driving their RV around the country. They moved to Lee, NH in 1992, where Orwin died in 1993. Jennivieve enjoyed living in her apartment on the family farm in Lee, surrounded by family and six of her seven great grandchildren. She was active in the Dover Friends Meeting. She loved keeping up with her 8th grade roommates from the Shanghai American School. They were from all over China. Three of the grandchildren studied Chinese and lived in China, and two became doctors. The Tootell family continues to be a treasured legacy in the Westwick family.

Jean Hawk Troy ’32 died in February, 2013 at age 97. Information courtesy of the Hamilton Times Free Press in Tennessee. Jean was born in Suzhou to missionary parents, Dr. and Mrs. John C. Hawk, and spent 17 years there. After graduating from SAS, she came to Virginia to study at Randolph-Macon Women’s College and East Tennessee State University. In 1936 she married the Rev. Dr. H. Olin Troy. They raised three sons and served pastorates in the United Methodist Church all over Tennessee and Virginia. Jean was very active in educational work in the churches they served and at Conference and national levels in the United Methodist Church.

(Continued on next page)
In 1964 she was elected to the Board of Global Ministries and subsequently traveled all over the world on behalf of world missions. In 1977 she returned to China on a tour sponsored by the US/China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA). Soon she was leading China tours herself which continued for the next 17 years, until she was 81, as a tour guide to China for USCPFA. She played a key role in developing the Sister City relationship between Wuxi and Chattanooga. Always a teacher, she led Schools of Christian Mission, taught Elderhostel classes and spoke about US/China issues in many venues. In 1980 she was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humanities by Tennessee Wesleyan College.

In addition to all this, she was a wonderful homemaker, cook, seamstress and mother. She was a strong, determined, gracious, caring and committed person whose memory will always be a blessing to her family and to the many others whose lives she touched.

Jacqueline Flannery Kathe ’43 died in August, 2013 at age 88.

Information courtesy of Star Advertiser in Honolulu.

Jackie was born in Shanghai in 1925 to Joseph and Laura (Hansen) Flannery.

From January, 1942 to February, 1945 Jackie and her parents were prisoners in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila. After WWII, Jackie attended Stanford University.

She returned to China and worked for the Economic Cooperation Administration, in Tienjin, where she met her husband, Raymund A. Kathe. He worked for Citibank and they were married in Hong Kong in 1950. Over the next 34 years, Ray and Jackie raised three children and lived in Tokyo, Nagoya, Yokohama, Hong Kong, New York City, and Wilton, CT. In 1985, they retired to Honolulu and Ray died a few years ago.

Jackie was an active member of each community in which they lived. In Honolulu she was a member of Sacred Heart parish, Punahou; the Pacific Club; Friends of the East-West Center; Japan America Society and the Honolulu Academy of Arts.
Cindy Easton Moves On

At the end of this school year, SAS will say good-bye to a wonderfully energetic, good-spirited, beautiful, helpful friend and liaison with us who are active in SASA. Here’s her email of January 10, 2014:

“I just wanted to wish you all a Happy New Year on behalf of SAS! I also wanted to thank all of you for your continued commitment to the school and for all of your efforts on behalf of the alumni. You are amazing and SAS is so grateful to have you.

“I wanted to let you know that after eight amazing years in Shanghai, my family has made the decision to head home to Oregon next year. Our oldest son is starting high school and it is a good year to transition back to the states. We aren’t pursuing other international schools. We want to head home and be with family and friends. So it is with a heavy heart that I share this exciting news with you. I have absolutely LOVED my time at SAS both as a teacher and in development and I do hope that we will stay connected. The Centennial was the highlight of my time here, and getting to know all of you has been incredibly special to me. You have each touched me and left a lifelong impression on my heart. “Thank you so much for letting me be a part of your lives. Like you, SAS will forever be a part of me.”

Books of Note

Excerpted from the November 19, 2013 issue of the New York Times:

David T. Roy ’50 Completes His Translation of “Chin P’ing Mei” – an old Chinese novel is racy reading still.

When David was 16 and a student at SAS, he found an old Chinese edition of this classic Ming dynasty novel of manners – the start of his fascination and nearly 40-year effort to translate it into English in its entirety, with voluminous footnotes, “The Plum in the Golden Vase.” Princeton University Press recently published the fifth and final volume, “The Dissolution.”

Novelist Stephen Marche “praised Mr. Roy’s masterly rendering of a richly encyclopedic novel…and Mr. Roy’s scholarly colleagues are no less awe-struck at his erudition, which seemingly leaves no literary allusion or cultural detail un-annotated.”

David says of the work, “It’s an extraordinarily detailed description of a morally derelict and corrupt society.”

“Scholars credit Mr. Roy with rescuing The Plum in the Golden Vase from its reputation in the West as merely exotic pornography and opening the door to a more political reading of the book. It’s one that already comes easily to commentators in China, where the novel is seen as holding up a mirror to the tales of political and social corruption that fill newspapers now.” Perhaps not just in China! If you Google The Plum in the Golden Vase, Princeton University Press, you will see how to order it.
Ricksha Days, Remembering Shanghai by Leta May Tucker Hodge

In November, 2013, Leta May wrote, “I am taking the liberty of sending you my book about China, published a few weeks ago (AKA-Publishing and Compass Flower Press). It is a memoir and very different from those I have read about in the newsletter – and consequently in the several books that I have ordered…It is available in hard cover and paperback at amazon.com and at barnes and noble.com. I quote from the fly-leaf: “A stranger in a strange land – both in China and the United States – Leta Tucker Hodge has painted for us a small slice of shared experiences of wartime life as seen through her eyes using her unique and elegant voice. Assigned to manage one of the British American Tobacco Company factories in Shanghai in the 1930’s, Leta’s father, Jake Tucker pulled his family into the foreign society of Shanghai before the beginning of WW II. Life in China was a multicultural education that endeared the family to a vastly different way of life than their relatives back in the States…Retrospection from intelligent insight and a maturity of emotion not often seen in youth, the author has mastered the art of memoir in this haunting, yet joyful literary showpiece.”

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Westhampton College, University of Richmond (Virginia), Leta went on to study history, receiving a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship and a Thomas Jefferson Fellowship to do so at the University of Virginia. She married Ed Hodge, a lawyer in 1961, and moved to Mexico, Missouri where they still live, having raised 3 daughters and now have 5 grandchildren.

Leta served for 10 years as director of the Audrain County Historical Society and Museum and has written extensively on local history. She is indeed a very fine, elegant writer and this book is a wonderful read.

Letters from Vladivostok, 1894-1930 by Eleanor L. Pray (Author), Birgitta Ingemanson (Editor), and Patricia Dunn Silver, SAS ’44 (Contributor) University of Washington Press, 2013.

These comments about the book are from Angie Mills: “the book is a collection of letters by Pat’s grandmother, Eleanor Pray, who was a dorm mother, librarian, study hall supervisor, laundry supervisor – a pillar of SAS staff throughout the 1930’s and 40’s. Eleanor left Maine in 1894 to join relatives in Vladivostok who ran a large American emporium in that city. Pat has been working on the book for about 10 years.” She sent Angie a copy. “I started reading it immediately. Mrs. Pray was a strong and resourceful woman and gives a fascinating account in her letters of the ex-pat life in that part of Siberia during those tumultuous times. Eleanor had a daughter Dorothy, born in Vladivostok in 1906, but sent her to SAS about 1917-19.

(Continued on next page)
Dorothy married a Dr. Thomas Dunn with a practice in Shanghai…In the SAS History (Angie’s book) there’s a paragraph and picture of Eleanor in Chapter 5 and in Chapter 13, entitled “Internment”, there are several mentions of Eleanor, Dorothy and Pat.”

These comments from Ted Stannard: “(Eleanor) was high society in Czarist times, continued to work into Bolshevik times until work options ran out and she migrated to Shanghai to join her daughter, son-in-law and two step-daughters – all with SAS links…Her son-in-law, Dr. Dunn, was a top physician and TB specialist, and his daughters Peggy and Patty Dunn were both at SAS (’41 and ’44).…Pricey book but SAS buffs might be interested…”

Pat’s sister, Peggy Dunn Siebens ’41 died in 2011 and an article about her is in the Summer 2011 issue of SASA News.

In the Fall 2013 issue of SASA News we noted Helen Roberts Thomas’s SAS ‘38 book *In the Valley of the Yangtze: Stories from an American Childhood in China*. It is being published in March by Commonwealth Books and Small Press United is their distributor. For further information, you may contact Jennifer Richards at Jennifer@otrpr.com.

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**Living Like an American Teen (sort of)**

*By Betty Barr Wang ’49*

As printed in the *Shanghai Daily* in December, 2013. It identifies our Betty this way: Betty Barr Wang, a Scottish who’s married to a Shanghai man, has been living in the city for 46 years and used to teach at the Shanghai International Studies University.

“The fire station at the corner of Yuyuan and Wulumuqi roads is a landmark of my childhood. Besides it are two large building which, in the 1930’s and 40’s, were the Public School for Boys and the Public School for Girls, built by the Shanghai Municipal Council for the children of foreigners. In those days they were not, as now, called international schools. It is interesting to note that those two schools were built outside the International Settlement. From 1938 to 1941 our family lived in a ground-floor flat in Lane 749, Yuyuan Road. My brother and I took the public bus to our respective schools. One day I missed my bus stop and was taken on to the next stop at St. George’s, a terminus for buses and trams. To me, it was a large, bustling place with crowds swarming around. Now, the only original building in that area is the Paramount Ballroom which, to this day, holds tea dances. Lost, I stood there crying. In the end a tall British policeman took me all the way back to my classroom teacher.

In those days there were a number of schools for foreigners, the cream of the crop being the Cathedral School for Boys (on current Hankou Road) and the Cathedral School for Girls (on current Huashan Road). These had been founded by the Anglican Church and were private schools where the fees were very high. Our schools, by comparison, were for the ordinary folk.

Another prestigious school was the Shanghai American School, then on Avenue Petain (today’s Hengshan Road). It had been founded in 1912 by American missionaries mainly for their children.

After World War II, my mother having taken me to her home in Dallas, Texas, for a year, I attended SAS from 1946 to 1949. As much as possible, I lived the life of an American teenager. There were, of course, schools for the children of other nationalities such as a French school, a German school and a Jewish School on Seymour Road (now Shaanxi Road). As far as I remember, the only interaction between any of these schools for foreign children was on the sports fields.”
Dinner with Richard Mueller  By Mimi Gardner ’52

On a chill, snowy, sloppy evening in early February, a few of us ventured into Boston to have dinner with SAS Superintendent Richard Mueller and the Deputy Superintendent Andrew Torris. They were there to hire new teachers for SAS. Anne Lockwood Romasco came from Brooklyn, Carl and Faith Scovel from nearby Jamaica Plain, and Don and I from Marblehead. Our agenda was to mutually get acquainted and to ask just a few questions – how are things going, generally?

We came away reassured that our connection as SASA alumni with the school is valued, especially the historical memory we hold. Richard Mueller’s connections with China and with folks like Stape Roy ’52 in his career with the U.S. State Department as well as his later turn to school administration, including Northfield Mount Hermon, gave us lots of common ground. It was a very friendly and reassuring time that SAS is in good hands.

We learned that Andie Torris will be leaving SAS next year, as well as Cindy Easton, both having served there for many years. In arranging for this dinner, we learned that there is a new Director of Advancement, Mr. Lindsay Thierry, whose job description includes Alumni Relations – impossible to replace Cindy but we look forward to working with Lindsay.

Editor’s note: In the last issue, I inadvertently left off a significant ending to the introduction of Richard Mueller. So here it is from the SAS Press Release:

“Mr. Mueller’s early experiences included two years of Chinese language training and than an assignment to the U.S. Liaison Office in Beijing from 1976 to 1978. He was there to witness the events surrounding Chairman Mao’s passing, the end of the Cultural Revolution, and the subsequent launching of economic reform under Deng Xiaoping.”

Here is Superintendent Mueller’s Greeting in the SAS Eagle On-line in September, 2013:

“...My wife, Claire, and I arrived in Shanghai early in July. We are delighted and honored to be here. We have known SAS as a wonderful school over many years and feel fortunate to be community members for this coming year. We...look forward to being out and about on both campuses to meet you and, of course, attend plays, concerts, athletic events and other special occasions. “The SAS mission statement resonates strongly with me. It anchors our community in important values by inspiring in all students a lifelong passion for learning, a commitment to act with integrity and compassion, and the courage to live their dreams. You will often hear me say, ‘It’s all about our students!’ They are at the heart of all we do, and their learning is our focus every day. I encourage parents, teachers and staff to help us keep this message the clear focus all year long. “The excellence of an SAS education is reflected particularly in the ‘real world’ education we afford our students. It’s grounded in what are often called 21st century learning skills: collaboration and leadership, cross-cultural and global understanding, communications, creativity, character, and critical thinking. An excellent SAS academic and co-curricular program helps students become innovative learners with strong skills serving them well throughout their lives.

“Warm regards, Richard Mueller, Superintendent, SAS”

Photo Courtesy of Don Gardner
Notes from You

Dan Williams ’38 Dan writes that 2013 was “not exactly a happy year for our family – so many details and challenges for Jan’s cancer experience, ending with her passing in July, 2013. A few more days would have included our 67 ½ year wedding anniversary.” Dan joined his daughters and their spouses, grandchildren and great grands in Medford, OR to celebrate Christmas. On another note, Dan reported that on December 15, the CNN program “Global Public Square”, hosted by Faheed Zaharias, had a four-guest panel that included Tom Friedman of the NY TIMES, talking about premium performance high schools in the world. “Not named but described in detail was ‘…an American school in Shanghai…’” visited by panel members.” Sounds like ‘twas SAS.

Alister Anderson ’37 while renewing his dues writes, “I treasure the years at SAS – 1936-37. Two teachers there during my years: Mr. Cheny and Mr. Gibbs have had a great influence on my life. My roommate was George Stamps. We have been life-long friends.” Alister was a Chaplain in the US Army and is Assistant Pastor Emeritus at Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Bethesda, MD. At age 90, he prefers and enjoys the printed edition of SASA News.

David Bridgman ’50 writes from Orlando about his trip to China in early December, 2013, to visit his on-going work with Minority National Churches in Yunnan. He writes of the bullet train ride from Shanghai to Nanjing where he visited the new campus of Nanjing Seminary and also a number of colleagues. Then he writes that East China was socked in with severe smog, delaying his flight to Kunming for a day. “Visibility was so poor expressways and bridges across the Yangtze were all closed,” as well as the airport. David visited minority churches in Yuxi Prefecture where “churches have only recently been permitted to register…and now new churches are springing up in several counties.” On the return there was a snow storm and ice in Kunming. “This is so rare. Yunnan is the ‘land of eternal spring’ and snow seldom comes to Kunming, much less in the dry season.”

Pearl Hoffman SAS Staff in 1948 “It is a pleasure to receive the SAS newsletter and read about the SAS-ers who were at the school when I was there…65 years ago! Mrs. Hoffman is still living in Gettysburg, still struggling to be cured from Lyme disease and some attendant co-infections. Her most difficult symptom is fatigue – extreme at times. “I guess most people in their 90’s often feel very tired. However, I have much for which I give thanks daily.” She came to the 2011 reunion in the Poconos and enjoyed it very much.
Bill Chu ’57 “During the last several months, I wrote, produced, directed and performed in ‘An Evening with Cole Porter’ – a fully staged (1930’s nightclub/Great Gatsby era scene). And during the Christmas holiday, I co-produced and performed in ‘Miracle on 34th Street’. I am also making progress with my memoir…

“My youngest son, Jen-Michael, who works for the U.N. Peacekeeping Forces, took a sabbatical to write a novel…He has worked at the UN for the past 12 years.

My eldest daughter, Jacqueline, has just renewed her contract with UNICEF and will be posted in Madagascar. Before that she was in the Central African Republic with UNICEF and her husband was Country Head for the International Rescue Committee.”

Don Messersmith husband of the late Sherry Sherertz Messersmith ’48
This is a gem!!!
“I would like to keep in touch with SAS friends, so keep me on the mailing list for your next reunion. I’m doing pretty well, but I miss her very much. Our four daughters keep track of me, sometimes daily. Other birding friends and former students have invited me for lunch, etc. Today I went hiking with former Environmental Education colleagues – 2 ½ miles in 23 degrees. It was great to get out for the first time since I moved to this smaller apartment. However, what I did this past summer is a bit unusual for someone my age (85). I drove mostly alone cross-country to look for birds and visit family and friends in several states. I was gone 5 months, drove 21,733 miles, visited parts of 30 states and 4 Canadian Provinces, saw 353 species of birds (10 were new for me). I saw and photographed four of the five Great Lakes, the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Each of my daughters joined me for a week or more. Another friend and good birder joined me for 12 days in Montana. I kept a journal now of 150 single-spaced pages. I had no car problems or other problems. I had no set itinerary or time table, was treated very well everywhere and consider it a great success. So, yes I am doing pretty good, but I would rather have had a reason to stay home with Sherry.”

Don Ady ’50 had a hip replacement surgery in January, 2014. “With no idea what doctor to go to, I went with the advice of a stranger – a lady I met walking nearby with a cane. She had had three joint replacements by one doctor and was delighted with her results, and I am using her doctor now.” Don and Barbara Ady were on the barge trip in France. He is very fit and recovering quite well.
Angie Mills ’42  Here are some highlights from Angie’s wonder-
dful Christmas letter.  She tells of her sister, Harriet Mills
’37.  Harriet is now in the Alzheimer’s unit of Collington in
Maryland.  “She has a nice room with a big window overlooking
a garden of grass, flowers and a bird bath.  Her daily aides take
very good care of all her needs.  She recognizes me and we can
exchange a sentence or two, on important subjects like weather
and breakfast, but that sadly is about all.”
In cleaning out Harriet’s independent apartment, Angie gave two
valuable paintings by a contemporary Chinese artist to Wellesely
College Davis Museum of Art.
In September, 2012, Angie and Jan moved to “…a very nice unit
at the Admiral…(with) windows overlooking Chicago’s Saddle
and Cycle Club…only a block away from Lincoln Park and the Lake…and a half block away
from an express bus which speeds downtown in 10 minutes…Residents and staff alike are very
nice – full of ‘with-it’ professional and business people all of whom appear to be well traveled,
interested in history, art, theatre, music, education, etc…It’s very convivial – everyone who
wants to brings a bottle of wine to share at dinner…Jan and I go occasionally to the in-house cafè for breakfast but we prefer to read the papers in p.j.’s and drink our coffee at home…Since
there is a wealth of resident-driven activities here (computer classes, voluntary teaching at a lo-
cal school, etc.) plus all the music, movies, stage, lectures, opera and art venues that Chicago
offers, if anyone is bored it’s their own fault.”
Angie and Jan spent 10 days in Maine last summer – a much-loved place for her – and also a
trip to Santa Fe – “What a contrast in landscape; I prefer Maine.”
She has been struggling with pain management from “severe stenosis of the lower spine” and
will likely have surgery soon.  Our very best wishes for a speedy and helpful recovery!

A Glimpse of SAS 2014 from The Eagle Review

Some time this past Fall, maybe 40 or 50 high school students from SAS went on Habitat for
Humanity International building trips to Nepal, Thailand, and Bali.  This picture from The Eagle
Review was a break in their work schedule to visit an elephant rescue park in Thailand.

On the Puxi Campus there is a high
school Poetry Club and they recently
had a “slam”.  Love the intensity of po-
etry at that age!

The students tend an organic garden on
campus, beginning with kindergartners.

You can visit The Eagle Review on-
line by going to the SASChina website.
Honor Roll and the Nearly There

We think this is updated properly. Please give a shout if you should be on this list and/or are improperly on the “Nearly There” list. We do make mistakes!

### Honor Roll means dues up-to-date through 2014 and sometimes beyond:

Donald Ady  Alister Anderson  William Awad  Betty Barr  Eleanor Barr  Margaret Bascom  
Betty Blakney  William Braisted  Janice Braly-Nelsen  Joanne Butler  

Peggy Callahan  Barry Coats  Hans Conrad  William Daub  Jean Downie  Margaret Ficken  
Nancy Francis  Jerome Grieder  Dorothy Hallet  Marian Heidel  Teddy Heinrichsohn  
John Hendry III  Leta Hodge  Pearl Hoffman  Mimi Hollister  

Reva Jolovitz  Anna Jones  Annie King  Ronald Koo  Eugene Knorn  Cyril Laewski  
Donald Landwehr  Edward Liang  James Mason  David Merwin  Marjorie Morris  
Mayna Nance  John Nichols  Martin Overholt  Lois Pringle  Lois Pryor  

Anne Romasco  Elizabeth Roulc  Jean Schuster  Carl Scovel  Leighton Shields  
Patricia Dunn Silver  Carolyn Simonson  Dalice Snyder  Ethel Socolar  Stephen Sopher  

Helen Thomas  Dorothy Thompson  Canute VanderMeer  Paul VanderMeer  Millidge Walker  
Charlie Way  Don Whittaker  Dan Williams  William Young  

### Nearly There list means dues paid through 2013:

David Angus  Elizabeth Bainbridge  Eleanor Beath  David Bridgman  Peter Dykstra  
David Familiant  Marie Florey  Harold Giedt  Alice Giffen  Arthur Gillespie  Jeff Gorman  
Margaret Green  

Jean Houser  Richard Jackson  Arthur Kim  Evelyn Moulton  Ted Nace  Marion Naifeh  
Michael Orapello  Dorothy Paul  Louise Putnam  Lenor Regier  Susan Richardson  
Delma Romano  

Elizabeth Shippee  Joan Spencer  Ted Stannard  Sarah Steel  William Tucker  Myles Walfburn  
Sterling Whitener  Doris Williams  Mary Ellen Wright  

All others, if you send just $15, we will call you up-to-date. Such a deal!!! If you want to send more, we’ll add more years to your paid-up dues.

**Make your check out to Charles Way and put SASA dues in the memo line.**

Mail the check to:

*Charles Way, 222 Highland Drive, Bellingham WA 98225*
Your money covers the cost of *SASA News* – layout and printing of hard copies for those without email. In addition, SASA gives $500 each annually to two students – one on each campus – who are good students and have done some interesting community service during their time at SAS. We also help to defray the expenses of the annual SASA lecturer.

This year, we are delighted to announce that Ellis “Jake” Jacob ‘49 will be visiting each campus in April to talk in some class groupings about his own life and family and also some history of the Jewish immigrant communities in Shanghai. Wish we could all be there!
If possible... Go Green with SASA News! Get it online or through your e-mail!