

The
**AMERICAN OVERSEAS
SCHOOLS HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, Inc.**

An Arizona Non-Profit Corporation

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Journal Staff

Tom Drysdale, Editor
Lee Davis, Associate Editor
A. Lucille Hansen, Associate Editor
Norma Drysdale, Office Manager
Millie Pettitt, Consultant
Rosie Sewell, Consultant
Brian Drysdale, Computer Advisor

Publications Committee

State and Regional Directors of AOSHS
(to be elected August 1996)

THE AOSHS QUARTERLY is published by *The American Overseas Schools Historical Society Inc.*, and is designed to enhance public understanding of the human effort, service, reward, and sacrifice in educating American children and youth abroad. AOSHS membership is \$10.00 annually and includes four issues of the Quarterly published each January, April, July, and October. To subscribe, send \$10.00 to AOSHS, Box 777, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340.

Donations to help preserve the *American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA)* for posterity and historical research are appreciated.

Readers are encouraged to submit short, factual articles of human interest regarding their experiences overseas. Articles printed may or may not reflect the opinions of the **AOSHS**.

The **AOSHS** exists solely for the preservation of *The American Overseas Schools Archives*.



The
**AOSHS
QUARTERLY**

*A Journal for All Past and Present American
Overseas Schools Personnel, Students, and Families*

This is the first issue of *THE QUARTERLY*, a journal which will attempt to report on the lives of overseas students, families and schools personnel, both past and present. We hope that *THE QUARTERLY* will also be an organ for AOSHS members to express themselves regarding U.S. education abroad, and on their own personal and unique experiences.

Those who have attended schools overseas or have taught or served in overseas schools are strongly bonded to one another on a level that seemingly is not attained by those of other U.S. schools and school systems. Therefore, *THE QUARTERLY* will also focus on strengthening these bonds.

Most of this issue is devoted to an update of the *American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA)* established on the campus of Northern Arizona University in November, 1989, and the non-profit *American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS)*, incorporated in July, 1995 with the objective of eventually obtaining ownership of the archives and preserving them for donors, their descendants and historians.

Enclosed is an additional copy of the Preamble to the *By-Laws of the Historical Society* requested by many members.

Your recommendations on how to improve *THE QUARTERLY* and better serve you, will be appreciated.

**The Contents of
The American Overseas Schools Archives
(AOSA)**

Of great service and use to those who use the archives are up-to-date summaries of information on more than 700 elementary and secondary schools overseas, including 52 dormitory schools, attended by dependents of U.S. Government families. This information, stored on

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microfiche, is sent, and periodically updated, by **Dr. Keith Miller** of the Department of State, Office of Overseas Schools (DoS A/OS) in Washington, D.C. These valuable summaries include not only comprehensive information on private schools around the world, but DoD Dependents Schools as well.

The American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA) consists of three separate components—The Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS), The Department of State Assisted Private Schools (DoS A/OS) and other private American Schools, and the students and alumni of the above systems.

The three components contain 231 open collections which have been classified and recorded, a number of which are constantly being added to by the donors. There are many additional collections which have not been opened, classified, and recorded.

When a collection is opened and unpacked, each item is classified and listed under one of 80 categories in the AOSA Inventory Catalog and then recorded with a backup in the AOSA computer. Following the advice of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., all collections are stored intact under the names of the donors. This procedure is followed primarily for the benefit of the heirs and decedents of donors (and historians) who may want to review or research the lives of their ancestors. It also keeps collections of schools, and above school offices, intact for the benefit of past and present associated personnel, students, historians, writers, and researchers.

For 173 of the 231 open collections, it takes one page or less of single-spaced typing to list the contents of each one. For 45 collections it takes one to four pages and for the 13 largest collections it takes from five to 40 pages.

The largest open collection is that of **Marilyn Witcher**, Public Affairs Officer of DoDDS until December 31, 1995. To list the items it takes 40 pages of single-space typing and there are many large boxes yet to be opened. This huge collection is comprehensive and contains a great amount of information on DoD Dependents

Schools worldwide.

The second largest open collection is that of **Richard Osner**, District Superintendent of DoD Dependents Schools in Japan. It takes 16 pages to list the items, which include the single-largest number of yearbooks in the archives dating back to the 1940's. Some of these earlier yearbooks are bound, decorated, and illustrated in the Japanese tradition and style. There are many unopened boxes and packages, the contents of which will be added to Dick's collection.

The four largest unopened collections, and they are huge, have been donated by **Carter Johns**; **Ernest Lehmann**, European President of the Overseas Federation of Teachers; **Dr. Kenneth Gose**, Executive Director of the Commission on Schools of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; and the recently established European Area Office directed first by **Dr. Joseph Blackstead** and followed by **Dr. Arlyn Sweeney** and now by **Lawrence Philpot**.

Carter Johns, with the organized help of select students of the David Glasgow Farragut High School in Rota, Spain (now closed) have catalogued, packaged and sent what is obviously the most comprehensive and complete single school collection in the archives. When classified and recorded, it will compare in size with the **Marilyn Witcher** Collection.

With the exception of the most recent, operational files of the OFT in Europe, **Ernest Lehmann** has donated most of the union's non-sensitive files and records going back to its first days in Europe. (In addition to an OEA collection, also many collections of individuals contain large amounts of OEA papers and records.)

Also, with exception of the most recent, operational files of the Commission on Schools of the NCA, **Ken Gose** has donated all of the DoD Dependents Schools evaluation and accreditation records going back to their first NCA team visits and evaluations overseas.

The unopened European Region Collection is impressive due to its size, alone. Some of the staff serving in the previous Germany Region of-

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fice, e.g. **Betty Jean Nicholas**, **Frank O'Gara** and **Harold Haggard** have also donated large collections which are added to regularly.

Many schools and individuals have donated collections which will be reported on, in depth, in future editions of *The Quarterly*. This will take time and the selections will be done randomly.

It is misleading to equate the size of collections to importance and historical significance. We hope we have not done this. All collections in the archives are important. Many average and small collections are as valuable, or more valuable than some larger ones. For example, the **Dr. Alfred Beerbaum** Collection, of medium size, contains a number of historical documents covering the first establishment of the Military Dependents Schools Foreign Language and Host Nation Programs in Europe shortly after World War II. Also in this collection is a single piece of paper (now framed) which is absolutely priceless. On it is written the first Philosophy of Education of the Army Dependents Schools in Germany, written by two teachers tasked to do this. Tears come to the eyes of most of those who first read it. The teachers' names are **M. Brockmann** and **H. Westervelt**, and sadly, we have been unable to locate them. It is dated October 14, 1946 and titled "Our Responsibilities as Teachers in Germany." It speaks not only of the teachers' responsibility to their students and their communities back home, but also to the needs of German children at that time.

We hope to find in time other DoD school philosophies of education elsewhere around the world from about the same time period and those of American private schools abroad, prior to, and following World War II.

Another example of priceless documents in small (as well as large) collections are those of **James Thompson** and **Jim Halsema** regarding a small American high school in a Japanese civilian prison camp in the Philippines during World War II. The school was organized by a **Father Gowan** who had been headmaster of the Brent School in Baguio, Philippines prior to the war. **Thompson** taught high school chemistry in that

school (without pay) for two years. Although he was an engineer and not a certified teacher, twelve of his students went to college after the war and received full credit for their prison camp chemistry class.

In time, with enough volunteer help, we plan to cross-reference the collections. This will be of benefit to researchers investigating a particular topic or subject. For example: the collection donated by **Dr. Richard Coss** is of medium size, but a large portion of the work he accomplished—the staffing and writing of DoDDSEUR Regulations—while serving as Deputy Director of US Dependents Schools, Europe (USDESEA) and DoD Dependents Schools, European Region (DoDDSEUR) from 1972 to 1976, is in the collection of **Marilyn Witcher**.

The wide variety of items in various collections is illustrated by those of **James Ambrose**—newspaper articles he has written about overseas living and teaching and nine case studies he wrote for the International Academy for School Executives; **Daniel DeCarlo**—33 large scrapbooks reflecting his entire overseas career in France, Italy, Libya, Okinawa, Japan and England; **Marie Espinoza**—personnel assignment, and finance records, awards and letters of appreciation covering 33 years in Saudi Arabia, Libya, Morocco, Italy, France, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, and Okinawa. **Robert Ferguson**—Photographs, books, programs reflecting two careers in DoDDS and DoS A/OS.; **Earl Fox**—collection of 2x2 photographic slides; **Paul Francis**—school commencement exercises; **Edward Francisco**—the early days of teacher recruitment; **Anne Frazier**—newsletters from Japan, Okinawa, Turkey, England, and Germany and a worldwide collection of travel books, brochures, and maps; **Joan Frey**—Japanese orphans helped by Johnson and Yokota schools, Videotapes of music programs, and Christmas carols in Romanized Japanese; **Harold Haggard** and **Frank O'Gara**—thousands of *Stars and Stripes* articles, school manuals, and parent/student handbooks; **Dr. Lee John-**

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son—athletic schedules and flow charts; **Iris Kent**—Canal Zone Junior College yearbooks, and a collection of poems and essays by Balboa HS and Panama Canal College students; **Mary Muehring**—Berlin, Wuerzburg, and Okinawa schools histories with photographs of faculties (individuals identified) and facilities; **Betty Jean Nicholas**—collections of 87 booklets of students' art, poetry, and creative writings; **Dr. Jim and Dorothy Roberson**—Arabic, Turkish, Moroccan workbooks and textbooks; **John and Heide Shurtleff**—statements and testimonials before congressional subcommittees; **James Stewart Williams**—newspapers, directories, books, videotapes, programs, yearbooks, manuals, and photographs from schools in Germany and Italy.

People other than educators and students have also contributed, for example, the families of **Richard Meyering**, **Dr. John Steele**, **Charles Ross**, and **Sanford Bale** have established collections in the names of these gentlemen.


In addition to the collections of individuals, schools and above school offices, the archives have an audio and video collection of individuals as well as events, e.g. the Mt. Pinatubo volcano which covered the Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station schools with ash and mud; Berlin High School teacher **Eugene Brown** and students videotaping of the Berlin Wall coming down and the interviewing of East Germans crossing over to West Germany. With the help of volunteers and AOSHS Regional Directors, the videotaping of current and past overseas educators and students will be accelerated. These impromptu accounts of experiences abroad, frequently on the cutting edges of history in the making, are historically important.

The archives also have an expanding computer database of the names, addresses and other information of 2,800+ personnel, mostly educators, and more than 3,000 other personnel on cards awaiting transfer to the database. The archives also have information on more than 200 alumni associations on index cards. More vol-

unteers will hopefully be recruited to help maintain these databases.

Individual files of personal information including overseas and Washington, D.C. assignments is maintained for past and present overseas schools personnel and students who have registered, at no cost, with the archives. The number of these files greatly exceeds the number of collections donated to the AOSA. They are historically important because they contain titles (teacher, student, etc.) and years of assignments to overseas schools and above school offices. It is important for those who have registered to inform the AOSA of changes of assignment or address.

Also on file are the personal stories—histories of educators who served overseas during 1946 to 1956. They were edited and re-edited by **Millie Pettitt**, typed and retyped, and put on computer disks by **Rosie Sewell**. These personal stories will be available in book form for review during the combined students' and educators' reunion in Washington, D.C. next July 31st through August 4th. Other books covering 10-year periods, from 1956 to 1996, will be published in the future.

The story goes on and on. 

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS ARCHIVES (AOSA)

The concept of establishing permanent archives for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, the Department of State Assisted Private Overseas Schools and other private American schools; and the alumni of these systems on the campus of Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Flagstaff, Arizona was approved early in 1989 by **Dr. Eugene Hughes**, President of NAU.

Following **President Hughes'** approval of the concept, a feasibility study was conducted, including a trip to Washington, D.C. to further explore the idea with **Dr. John Stremple**, Director of DoD Dependents Schools; **Dr.**

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Ernest Mannino, Director of the DoS Office of Overseas Schools; and officials of NEA (Overseas Education Association), AFT (Overseas Federation of Teachers), The American Association of School Administrators and The National Archives. All recognized the need and endorsed the establishment of archives at NAU to collect overseas schools memorabilia and preserve some of the history (much was already lost by then) of educating American children and youth abroad.

Following recommendations of the feasibility study, **Drs. David Williams and Raymond Vervelde**, Executive Director and Associate Executive Director respectively of the Center for Excellence in Education at NAU, in consultation with Vice President **Dr. Patsy Reed**, prepared the archives proposal for **Dr. Hughes'** consideration. The proposal was approved and The American Overseas Schools Archives were established and operating in November of 1989.

At that time, a large fully equipped office, an adequate work area, and a 12x52 foot storage room was provided in the Wilson Riles Building and was considered to be more than adequate in meeting the needs of the AOSA for generations to come. But, to the amazement of all those involved in planning, setting up and running the AOSA, the work area and storage room was completely filled up, floor to ceiling by the end of SY 1993/94. This situation had become somewhat evident the previous year, when the work area had to be converted for storage because mail, packages and boxes, some as large as 4'x4'x4' were arriving at an accelerated rate due to the closing of military bases and schools abroad. Also, more than 400 past and present educators and students from around the world had visited the archives by then.

A request for additional space was not approved because student enrollment and faculty had steadily increased during the early 1990's requiring some professors, instructors, and graduate assistants to double up on the use of office and storage space.

Only two options seemed available to the

AOSA at the time: Close down operations, box and store the archives elsewhere on campus (rendering them inaccessible) and notify the Departments of Defense and State, retirees, and alumni, to stop donating memorabilia. Or, to minimally continue operations, using space between storage racks for storage, while looking for another place to relocate.

By this time, it had become evident to the volunteer AOSA staff that due to the constantly increasing workload and lack of space, the archives should be relocated in a large metropolitan area where a pool of more volunteers—overseas schools retirees and alumni—were available. So, the second option was selected with NAU approval, and announced during the DoDDS reunion in Las Vegas in July of 1994.

Following the reunion, letters were then sent to all DoD and DoS personnel, current and retired, who had registered with the AOSA announcing the pending formation of The American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) planned to take ownership of the archives at a future date and preserve them for posterity.

During the following year, hundreds of past and present overseas schools personnel and students worldwide requested charter membership in the AOSHS, which was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 20, 1995. Shortly thereafter an application for charitable status was submitted to the Internal Revenue Service which is still pending. When approved, dues and donations will be income tax deductible.

On December 15th and 16th of 1995 the Center for Excellence in Education at NAU temporarily moved the archives, rent free, to personal property in Arizona owned by **Tom and Norma Drysdale**. The archives are still owned by NAU, but will be donated by agreement to the AOSHS when it receives charitable status from the IRS.

When charitable status is conferred and the AOSHS acquires ownership of the archives, an ad hoc committee will be appointed from the

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membership to make recommendations to the membership regarding finding a permanent home for the archives. Members interested in serving on the ad hoc committee should write to AOSHS, Box 777, Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340.

Rather than have NAU deed the archives to another university, college, military base, post or installation, etc. counsel has advised the above steps already heeded and taken. When the AOSHS takes ownership, the members will be in charge of and control of what happens to *their archives*.

The Historical Society Incorporation By-Laws have been written to protect the archives in the years ahead from internal politics and the whims of any institution—college, military base, etc.—which might, by agreement, house them. Ownership and control will remain in the hands of the society.

By law, we have also guarded against the future possibility of the archives being owned by another institution whose disinterested executives might dump them at some future time. As long as the society membership is made up of past and present overseas schools personnel and students *and their descendants and heirs*, the archives will remain intact and be protected.

In closing this brief account of the history of the AOSA to date, it is fitting that we should all recognize and appreciate the foresight and support of **Drs. Hughes, Reed, Williams and Vervelde**. Had it not been for them, the AOSA would not exist today and the history and related memorabilia we have collected and preserved would in a few short years, in all probability, be lost forever. They recognized that the overseas education of American children and youth is an important, as yet unwritten, chapter in the history of American education.

Dr. Hughes has been President of the Wichita State University, in Kansas, since July 1993. **Dr. Reed** has been Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, since June 1994. **Dr. Williams** has been Dean of the School of Hotel and Restaurant Management at NAU since July 1992. **Dr. Vervelde** was formerly the principal of the private American School in Tehran, Iran. Also, as the former Associate Executive Director of the Commission on Schools of the North Central Accrediting Association, he was initially responsible for the accreditation of DoD elementary schools. He is still the Associate Executive Director of the Center for Excellence in Education at Northern Arizona University. 

DoDDS UPDATE

Following the retirement of **Dr. John Stremple**, **Dr. Lillian Gonzalez** was selected to replace him as the Director, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) on September 4, 1994. In this position, she is also the Executive Officer for DoDDS and DoD Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) formally known as Section 6 Schools.

Dr. Gonzalez has BA, MS, and Ed.D. degrees from Inter American University in Puerto Rico (1966), City College of New York (1974) and George Washington University in Washington, D.C. (1989).

She began her educational career in the New York City Unified School System (1971) followed by positions of Instructor at George Washington University (1988); Assistant Superintendent, District of Columbia Public Schools (1989); and Deputy Superintendent,

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Baltimore, Maryland Public Schools (1991).

Following her leadership during the past year, DoDEA has designed a COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN to enable schools, staffs, and parents to deal with issues and the conflicting demands of today. They have also identified challenges that will face schools and communities in the future, and determined what must be done to meet these challenges.

The DoDDS System has also been reorganized again, back to three geographical areas: The Pacific Area of three districts and 35 schools with **Dr. Thomas Goodman** as Superintendent; the European Area of eight districts and 129 schools with **Lawrence Philpot** as Superintendent; and the Panama/Cuba/Domestic (Section 6) Area of 17 districts and 72 schools with **Dr. Hector Nevarez** as Superintendent. The previous Regional Offices—Atlantic, Germany, Mediterranean, and Pacific, have been reduced to two Area Offices—Europe and Pacific.

For the past four years, Drawdown has affected the schools in Europe much more than elsewhere. There are seven elementary schools in Europe scheduled to close at the end of SY 1995-96: Coevorden, Kalkar, Moenchengladbach, and Noervenich in the Brussels District; Idar Oberstein in the Kaiserslautern District; Regensburg in the Wuerzburg District; and Memmingen in the Heidelberg District.

During Drawdown, DoDDS has usually been able to maintain beginning school year staffing throughout the school years and avoid midyear reassignments even though pupil teacher ratios steadily decreased. Retaining permanent staff has been a top priority in DoDDS.

At present there are about 85,000 students who attend 173 DoD Dependents Schools in 15 foreign countries. In comparison, during the 1960's there were more than 300 schools operated primarily for military dependents in 31 foreign countries.

In future issues of *The Quarterly*, we will report on the progress of the DoDEA COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN, activities of the DoDDS staff, and provide more about what is going on at the district and school levels.

~~✎~~ DoS (A/OS) UPDATE ~~✎~~

BACKGROUND: Historically, Americans abroad have chosen to establish and operate community schools wherever they have been stationed rather than to send their children away for their education. Over 100 years ago citizens living in Mexico City established their own school in order to offer their children educational opportunities similar to what would have been available to them at home. This was the first of several hundred elementary and secondary community schools which have been established since that time by United States citizens in over a hundred foreign countries and dependencies abroad. U.S. Government assistance to American-sponsored overseas schools began in 1944 when the Congress appropriated \$220,000 for aid to a small group of schools in Central and South America to support their efforts in providing

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educational programs patterned on those of the United States. Assistance to American-sponsored overseas schools became worldwide in scope in 1957, when the Government made available U.S. owned local currencies in support of educational programs in countries with which there are agreements for the sale of surplus commodities.

By the early 1960's federal support for overseas schools was being provided under three separate appropriations, and the need for coordination became clear. In response, the Office of Overseas Schools was established in the Department of State in 1964. Today an estimated quarter million school-age American children living abroad attend various types of schools, the largest single group being the Department of Defense Dependents schools. Most dependents of civilian-agency federal employees attend non-government, coeducational, independent schools of various kinds. Although these schools include those founded by U.S. companies, church organizations, and individual proprietors, many of them are independent, non-profit, non-denominational schools established on a cooperative basis by U.S. citizens residing in foreign communities. It is this latter group that receives assistance from the Office of Overseas Schools.

STATISTICS ON THE "AMERICAN-SPONSORED" SCHOOLS ASSISTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE: During the 1988-89 school year, the DoS office of Overseas Schools assisted 178 schools in 106 countries. In comparison, during the 1994-95 school year, the Office of Overseas Schools assisted 190 schools in 121 countries. The purposes of the assistance program are to help the schools provide adequate education for U.S. government dependents and to demonstrate to foreign nationals the philosophy and methods of American education. The schools are open to nationals of all countries, and their teaching staffs are multinational. Enrollment in the schools at the beginning of the 1994-95 school year totaled 103,521, of whom 27,708 were U.S. citizens. In addition, there were 75,813 children from over 125 other countries. Of the U.S. enrollment, 5,537 were dependents of employees carrying out U.S. government programs, 9,307 were dependents of employees of U.S. business firms and U.S. foundations, and 12,864 were dependents of other private citizens. Of the total of 11,224 teachers and administrators employed in the schools, 5,579 were U.S. citizens and 5,645 were foreign nationals from some 75 countries.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS: No statement about the American-sponsored overseas schools would apply without exception or qualification to all schools. Variety is one of their basic characteristics. They range from tiny schools, such as that in Krakow, Poland (the American International School of Krakow), with 11 pupils, to large overseas schools, like the Jakarta International School in Jakarta, Indonesia, with 2,774 students. School facilities range from rented homes to multimillion dollar campuses, although increasing numbers of overseas schools now occupy purpose-built facilities. Very few schools have boarding facilities.

The schools are not operated or controlled by the U.S. government. Ownership and policy control are typically in the hands of associations of parents of the children enrolled, who elect a school board to supervise the superintendent or chief administrator whom the board chooses to administer the school. In some schools, the organization

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is highly formalized, comprising corporate status in the United States or in the host country, while other schools are loosely-defined cooperative entities. In some locations, the schools are closely associated with the U.S. Embassy and AID Mission; in others, the local or international communities share direct concern for the school with the American community. All schools are subject, in varying degrees and with varying effects, to host-country laws and regulations pertaining to educational practices, importation of educational materials, personnel practices, etc.

The Director of the DoS Office of Overseas Schools, **Dr. Ernest Mannino** and his deputy **Dr. Keith Miller** are assisted by a staff of professionals who work directly with nine Regional Education Associations and the schools in each region. Future issues of *The Quarterly* will report on the activities of the DoS (A/OS) Staff, the regional associations and the schools in the regions.



ALUMNI NEWS AND EVENTS



From Bill Gunkle and Glenn Greenwood:

GRAND REUNION '96, produced by Reunions Unlimited and co-sponsored by Microsoft, Inc., will be held July 31st through August 4th, 1996 at the *OMNI SHOREHAM HOTEL* in Washington, D.C. This event will give many students and educators from DoDDS and private overseas schools the first opportunity to renew old friendships.

The event is being held in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the DoD Dependents Schools.

To receive more info on Grand Reunion '96, call or write to **Bill Gunkle**, REUNIONS UNLIMITED, 6851 S. Holly Circle, Suite 100, Englewood, CO 80112, (303) 694-1888, or send e-

mail to GRAND96@aol.com.



NOTICE: *The Quarterly* staff has just received info from DoDDS regarding the celebration of the 50th Anniversary (1946-1996) of DoDDS in Washington, D.C. next summer. **Ms. Patricia Lambe**, recently selected by **Dr. Gonzalez** to be the new DoDEA Communications Officer, will give the 50th Anniversary priority attention, when she returns from Japan where she is now with **Dr. Gonzalez**. We will report on this fully in the April edition of *The Quarterly*. In the meantime, prior to the development of a DoDDS Plan of Action, past and present educators should contact **John and Barbara Williams**, who have volunteered to assist in

planning for the 50th Anniversary, at 24882 Dana Fir, Dana Point, California 92629, (714) 443-9709.



From Jeannie McGuire:

A reunion of RAF Lakenheath Schools' Personnel, circa 1960's will be held July 19 through 21, 1996 in Oklahoma City. The home of **Bob and BJ Matthews** will be the "hub" with a variety of activities for all to enjoy. Contact **Jeannie McGuire** at 144 Wilbur St., Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034, or call her at work at (503) 222-4375, or at home (503) 697-3327.



PREAMBLE
TO
THE BY-LAWS
OF THE
AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The origin, evolution and development of American education abroad is a remarkable human and educational success story that spans 150 years. This history, of educating American youth and children overseas, is a rich heritage of which coming generations should not be deprived. How rich, few now fully realize; but a history which goes back to the mid 1850's and includes the stories of schools, students, parents, teachers, school administrators and support personnel worldwide should be recorded and preserved.

Early students and their teachers are gone; the ranks of their followers who have also endured the hardships of attending and administering American schools abroad are rapidly thinning. The stories of their experiences in laying the foundation for the present are, with their passing, slipping from our grasp never to be recovered.

It was to prevent, in some measure, this irreparable loss that The American Overseas Schools Historical Society was founded in July of 1995. It was undertaken also in the hope that it might inspire others to take up the unfinished task to preserve for posterity this priceless legacy.

The overseas education of more than two million American children and youth is an important, as yet unwritten chapter in the history of American Education. These students, their parents, teachers, school administrators and support personnel have lived on the edge of history-in-the-making in view of the Berlin Wall going up and coming down, Corregidor, Tiananmen Square, the DMZ in Korea and the China Sea, within earshot of the Six-day War, the Persian Gulf War and the invasion of Panama. They have lived and played near international military and political headquarters, been visited by presidents, prime ministers, royalty and ambassadors. They have studied and taught in a wide variety of physical facilities in the shadows of historic castles, near battlegrounds and famous landmarks. They have been evacuated from installations worldwide and removed due to massive political actions in Austria, France, and Lybia. This represents the schooling of several generations of American children and youth under circumstances unique to human history.

To collect, record and preserve the histories and memorabilia of these overseas schools, The American Overseas Schools Archives was established in November of 1989. Since then the archives have received hundreds of thousands of items from around the world--personal histories; school histories; video and audio tapes; photographs; yearbooks; scrapbooks; old and current curricula; newspapers, magazine and journal articles; expired official documents, papers and records; the files and records of accrediting associations and teachers' unions; and other memorabilia. Many individuals have also donated personal collections.

With the establishment now of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society, which will own, govern and operate The American Overseas Schools Archives, this important work will be guaranteed and carried on in perpetuity.