

# YO-HI Echoes...

## ...Then and

Yokohama High School Former Students Association

November 2006

#### 2007 FSA Reunion

- October 26-28, 2007
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Honoring the "Class of 1957"



#### 2008 FSA Reunion

Somewhere in the Northwest! Send in your suggestions and offers to host the event to Larry Rowe.



Distance and time may separate us but friendship and mem-

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### 2006 FSA Reunion - Houston, TX

Let's tip our cowboy hats to Ron and Liz Peugh, Charlotte Ryser, and Bud Rodee for putting on one heck of a Texas reunion.

Because of their untiring efforts, we were treated to four fun-filled days in the Houston suburb of League City. This year's reunion was held at the South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center, and from the configuration of the hotel we were able to look out tour of NASA was incredibly enover the water from each room. After checking in, you headed for the Hospitality Suite, where you picked up your registration packet, grabbed a snack, shook hands or hugged someone, and started a conversation. There were 93 attendees from the classes of 1953-62.

The first event was the Shrimp Boil held on Thursday night under a covered pavilion. Everyone met in the hotel lobby around 5:30 PM. Those people who had cars picked up those who didn't, and formed a convoy to Clear Lake City Park. We were met by the cooks, Mike and Kim Waggett, who provided everyone with a meal of "Texas Size" shrimp, red potatoes, cornon-the-cob, and a beverage of your choice. There was so much food that many went back for seconds.

Friday morning, bright and early, the golfers left for a tournament at Beacon Lake Golf Course. The

weather was great and a good time ping on the boardwalk visited Kewas had by all.

Those who weren't playing golf



left the hotel by bus for a tour of the Center (NASA) in Houston. The four hour

lightening as the guides provided information about the history of space travel. The group was amazed at the size of the Saturn rocket that took the first man to the moon, the outdated computer system that got them there and back, and how small the space capsule was.

Later that night, the cowboys and cowgirls met pool side for a real "Texas Style BBQ" of beef brisket, chicken, taters, cole slaw, beans, biscuits, and iced tea. After dinner, a drawing was held for door prizes, and everyone walked away with something, especially the little redheaded girl with ticket #807 who ended up with three prizes.

Saturday morning and afternoon was open time so everyone headed out in different directions to see the sights. There was antique hunting, fishing, and walking on the beach for those who went to Galveston. Those who enjoyed shop-

mah and the quaint little shops. Another group went to visit the San Jacinto monument and the USS Texas battleship. They had a great lunch at the Monument Inn watch-Johnson Space ing the freighters sail by.

> Saturday night was was a great time with dinner in the Marina Ballroom, After the dinner, the Class of 1956 was honored for their "50th Anniversary", The consensus of the group was that the 2008 reunion be held somewhere in the Northwest. Lots of people cut-a-rug to the music of the band, Contraband, until the bewitching hour when they finally ran us out. On Sunday morning, a breakfast buffet was held from 7-11AM. We all met to break bread and say goodbye to those who had to leave that day. Goodbyes are never easy, but we shook hands or hugged, and made plans to keep in touch. So, it's goodbye to old and new friends....Houston, we have lift off...See you next year at the reunion in Las Vegas!



#### YO-HI SHIRTS AND CAPS ON SALE!!!



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Have we got a deal for you! Now you can purchase that golf shirt or cap with the YO-HI logo that you've always wanted.

Golf shirts are 60/40 cotton/ polyester Herringbone Jacquard trimmed fashion collar, welt cuffs, and three metal buttons. Color is white with red trim and the YO-HI logo with a devil is 1 x I.75". Cost of the shirt is just \$30.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.

Caps are 60/40 cotton/polyester, five panels, 3-1/8"

crown, fused soft buckram backing, no braid, matching fabric under the bill, sewn eyelets, and matching plastic snap size adjuster. Color is white with red, and the YO-HI logo. Cost of the cap is only \$10.00 plus \$1.50 for shipping/handling.

Shipping charges cover the cost of packaging, postage, and insurance.

To find out more about this great deal. e-mail Charlotte (Ryser) Carey at voyager03@ev1.net or call (713) 467-5720.

#### The Devil's Playground

#### "COACH BUX AND HIS BOYS" by Sandy Milwit (57)

With deepest admiration and appreciation....

AMBIVALENCE- that was exactly the initial feeling that many of us had about our YO-HI football coach, Jerome Buxkemper. It was, at first, a bona fide hate-love relationship during those first two weeks of training under his brutal regimentation. The love part of this relationship soon followed and has endured for many of us over the past 50 years! ?Return with me for a few moments to recall how this relationship has evolved and endured lo these many years.

When Coach Buxkemper came to YO-HI in 1955, he met with Principal Hill who informed the coach that he had just two to three weeks to get a football team together for our first game of the year. So when Coach Bux was introduced to the YO-HI student body at our first general assembly of the year, in his beautiful Texas drawl he said: "I understand there are some of you out there who want to play some football!" That pronouncement was followed by a thunderous cheer from many of the wannabe YO-HI football players who took Coach Bux up on his special invitation to report to the gym immediately after classes that day. "Boys", he said in the gymnasium later that day, "I've only got so many football uniforms, but I assure you I won't have to cut anyone because I'm going to work you so hard in the next couple of weeks that most of you will want to quit well before the season starts!". How profound those remarks were as many of the YO-HI football player wannabes were dropping off like flies in just the first couple of days. Several of us who managed to hang in there under this tyrant can still remember one of the players yelling (pleading) while doing wind sprints for the umpteenth time: "Coach I think I'm going to loose my cookies"; whereupon the coach, totally unsympathetic, responded: "Well, loose 'em while you're running, son. "His brutal training camps and subsequent extraordinarily intense practices were the principle reasons that made us the All Far East Football Champions for two consecutive years in 1955-56 and 56-57. A number of us were also so very fortunate to have had him as our Basketball and Baseball coach where we enjoyed even more winning seasons under his tutelage. Coach Bux and his lovely wife, Harriet, who were married when we were at YO-HI, moved on to Frankfort, Germany in 1957, the same year many of us graduated from Y0-Hi.

"Pinky" Hart who deserves big time credit for reuniting Coach Buxkemper and his Harriet about eight years ago.

Pinky started it with a letter and/or e-mail to as many former players under coach Bux as he could locate to inform us first that not only was Coach Buxkemper alive and well and living in Austin, TX, but that he was about to celebrate his 70th birthday. It was Pinky's idea for all of us to send individual personal letters to the Coach on his 70th. All of the letters/cards were sent to to Pinky in Ohio who then forwarded this huge satchel of greeting and salutations to coach Bux. Pinky also said the letters would be

"CONFIDENTIAL"....HA!! Little did Pinky know that the coach was so moved by this that he copied every letter and sent each of us a copy of what we all had to say. The responses were terrific, and it's no wonder why Coach was so moved. Shortly thereafter, all former players under Coach Bux were invited with their spouses to a reunion in 1997 in Maryland.

This wonderful friendship with the Coach and Harriet has evolved into an annual affair whenever they pass through the Silver Spring, MD area on their annual trip to Harriet's sister in PA. We all make sure that we clear our calendars. During their last visit, the group took the Buxkempers to the Silver Spring, MD Country Club where several of their golfing friends came by our table to chat with the "Legend". It was such a delight to watch and listen to Coach Bux as he held court and totally mesmerized everyone with his stories of yesteryear which included his former teammates and friends, Tom Landry, Bobby Lane and NFL Hall of Famer, Don Maynard, who was coached in high school by Coach Bux just before Coach came to YO-HI.

Coach Buxkemper and Harriet have also attended several annual YO-HI reunions. How fortunate we are to have known and loved the man and his wife!



**Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary** Coach & Harriet!

#### **Reunion Passports**



Remember when you traveled overseas with your parents, and everyone was required to have a current passport. Every time you

A number of us kept in touch with Coach via the mail, but it was Bill

entered a different foreign port they took your passport, and would stamp the name of the country you had just entered.

Now you can get a YO-HI reunion passport,

and every time you attend a reunion, your passport will be stamped with the name of the city where the reunion is being held. Louise (Simon) Carlson (58), and her husband, Bob, have designed a "passport" book, and a seal for each reunion with the date and graphic.

You can buy your passport books at any reunion or by contacting the Carlsons. The books are \$3.50 each (plus 2 stamps for mailing) and the reunion seals are free. Let them know which reunions you have attended and they will send you the correct seals. Contact Lou and Bob Carlson at: 501 Emery Street, Longmont, CO 80501 - (303) 774-1977 or email: loubob-

C62@worldnet.att.net.

#### **NOTHING REPLACES A FRIEND** Submitted by Gay Havens (56)

We Is Friends! Me And You Is Friends! You Smile, I Smile. You Hurt, I Hurt You Cry, I Cry. You Jump Off A Bridge..... I Gonna Miss Your E-Mails!

#### **Check out those YO-HI Yearbooks!**

Jim Hyatt (48) has installed the COM-PLETE YO-HI yearbooks for 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954 on the YO-0HI website at this URL:

http://yohidevils.net/yearbook/46thru71/

#### WHERE ARE THEY?



Larry Rowe needs help in locating the following exes that were found and are lost again! Please search your memories, and help us get

these "lost" exes back on board.

Charles "Chuck" Colby (59), Susan Conland (56),

Merrilyn Crockett (59), David Holdren (56), Albert
Mays (55), Jerry (Miller) Hall (58), Jeanne Pinard
(58), Sandy (Podbleiski) Verdugo (57), Frank

Ready (59), Michael Sowers (60), Daniel Standaart (59), Dollie (Stidham) O'Sullivan (57), Landon Waggoner (56), Maude Zimmerman (FAC)

It doesn't take much to keep in touch!



#### **OLDIES BUT GOODIES....**

Liz Wood (61) says "take a look at this; someone did a lot of work to make this happen. There are several jukeboxes with songs/artists each jukebox is a different year 1956-1960. It's great hearing some of these old songs." <a href="http://www.bobforrest.com/JukeBox.htm">http://www.bobforrest.com/JukeBox.htm</a>

#### THE MILITARY BRAT

My hometown is nowhere, my friends are everywhere..

I grew up with the knowledge that home is where the heart is, and the family? Mobility is my life.. Some would wonder about roots, yet they are deep and strong as the mighty oak.

I sink them quickly, absorbing all an area offers and hopefully, giving enrichment in return.

Travel has taught me to be open.

Shaking hands with the universe, I find brotherhood in all men.

Farewells are never easy.

Yet, even in sorrow comes strength and ability to face tomorrow with anticipation....if when we leave one place,

I feel that half my world is left behind. I also know that the other half is waiting to be met.

Friendships are formed in hours and kept for decades.

I will never grow up with someone, but I will mature with many.

Be it inevitable that paths part, there is constant hope that they will meet again.

Love of country, respect and pride fill my being when Old Glory passes in review. When I stand to honor the flag, so also do I stand in honor or of all soldiers, and most especially, to the parents whose life created mine.

Because of this, I have shared in the rich heritage of Military Life.

#### YO-HI Memories in the Seahawk/Umitake Base Newspaper

The first articles about dependents in Japan in the 50's and early 60's have been printed! You can view the articles on Thursdays by going to the following website: <a href="http://www.cfay.navy.mil">http://www.cfay.navy.mil</a>. Wait for the home page to display and then select "This Week's Seahawk/Umitake Base Newspaper". Highlight "Online Version Read the Pages Here". Go to page 9 - "Community" and enjoy!

Many thanks to Bill Doughty from the Public Affairs Office of Command Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan for these wonderful articles documenting our life as teenagers in Japan.

Bill wrote "Beth-san, Liz, Larry, and James, thanks for opening the curtain to allow us a look into the past at YO-HI. I'm sure most of the kids here today cannot relate to the whole concept of the infamous honey bucket, obviously so memorable it became the name of your (email) newsletter When I came to Japan in 1971, there were still many, many homes with drop-and-plop style bathrooms in their homes. Of course, you all remember when "made in Japan" was an insult. Now, in the era of Sony and Lexus, many Japanese homes have the latest wash-and-dry toilet technology. No bad smells every other block. Once in a while you'll see one of those trucks with the huge elephant trunk hoses and guys with thick rubber gloves . . . but I can only imagine how it was like in the 50's and 60's in Japan. Liz, when you talked about watching the Lone Ranger in Japanese, imagine what they have now...of course the latest digital TV in many

homes, with your choice of English, Japanese, or both at the same time (if you want to learn one or the other), CSI, Lost, Simpsons, MTV and NFL....the works. Many channels play classic programming such as Ultraman, Astroboy, and samurai dramas. There's a big boom in Japan now for (Japanese) folk music from the 60s. And one of the popular FM shows plays great oldies from the 50s. As I'm typing this,



I'm listening to Inter-FM which specializes in Hawaiian music, including ukulele and popular music. I think we should feel a little guilty when we realize how much things have improved here and how many choices we have. At least, with your help, we can allow people to understand how far things have come and how much

we have."

"Again, I appreciate all the memories and stories from YO-HI alumni and your willingness to share. Thank you for sending photos; much appreciated. The base newspaper, "Seahawk", wants to do a series about life in Japan seen through the eyes of those that attended YO-HI back in the fifties and early sixties. If you have any pictures, stories, or memorabilia from your time spent in Japan, please forward them to me at the following: Commander Fleet Activities, Yokosuka Code 013, ATTN: Public Affairs Officer, PSC 473 Box 01, FPO AP 96349".

or not!!

#### **BOAT or SHIP???**



Hap Haggard (56) wrote: Responding to your comments about the transport ships, Hap Haggard (56) wrote: "There was the Gen Randall that brought my family to Japan in 1954. I went home on one of the Patricks. One was the Gen MM Patrick. (Ye Gods! That was nearly 50 years ago! And I can't remember yesterday!)"

Joan Todd (54) wrote: "I went to Japan on the Buckner (1953) returned to the States on the Buckner (1954). I also returned to the States on the Buckner (1956) when I left my parents nest (Dad was stationed in France at the time)."

Carole Vann (61) wrote: "I sailed twice on the Gaffey to Japan (1956, 1958). I can't remember which ship I sailed back on in 1961. We flew back to the States in October 1957 on a scary Slick Airways transport plane. Ships are better!"

**Betty Creech (58)** wrote: I remember traveling across the ocean on the Breckenridge, I was sick and throwing up the whole time. A few years ago, I saw on TV that someone had taken the USS Mann apart, and was using it for a business decoration.

Mike Murphy (60) wrote: Until the mid 60's when Congress changed the format on naming ships, this I believe was the custom - Aircraft carriers were named after famous war battles and had a nick name of "flattops"; Battleships were named after states; Cruisers after cities; Destroyers after towns; Submarines after fish. My dad, brother and I served on the Diodon, Volador, Bashaw, Pomodon, Pomfred, Charr, Carp, Sargo, Grayback, Perch and Segundo...just to name of few.

**Dian Ross (60)** wrote: The references to the various ships we sailed on to and from Japan do bring back a flood of memories. We sailed from San Francisco to Yokohama on the General Mann in 1953, skirted 3 typhoons and heard upon docking in Yokohama... that the ship had split a seam in the rough weather. Considering that the depth of the water troughs we were in was probably 4-5 times the length of the ship, it's a wonder that was all the damage that was done. In the late 60's the sister ship of the Mann (don't remember the name) was being towed to salvage, went belly up in a storm off the Washington coast and ended up on the rocks just south of Neah Bay. Knowing it was the same size as the Mann, I remember being stunned at how small the ship really was. The hull was still visible the last time I heard. Phil McLaren (58) wrote: I need to go back and check my journal, but I think we came home from Japan in 1958 on the Anderson. About fifteen of us young boys were stuck in the fantail right above the screw. The noise and vibration was amazing. There were water tight bulkheads between us and the rest of the ship so it rocked day and night. When we arrived in Frisco I had been awake for 48 hours straight. We got on the pullman car on the train for LA and the porter had to open the door and shake us awake so we could leave the train in the morning. My dad was so mad. It was a great time however. Cheers,

**Pat Thomas (59)** writes: Love the updates! Don't think I saw our ships mentioned. We went to Japan from San Francisco Nov of 55 (had my birthday on board) on the Mitchell and returned to Seattle June 57 on the Morton. **Terry Slezak (56)** wrote: I remember going to Japan on the Gen. Hugh Gaffey as a dependant and coming back in the Army (I enlisted in Japan), somewhere down in the dark recesses of the hold on the Buckner. Interestingly, my father was a troop officer down in Rio de Janiero, and other places, during WWII, sending troops over to Europe and one of the ships that made these runs was the Buckner. My dad spent a lot of time and made several crossings on the Buckner and came home with one of the flags that flew on that ship. I remember the ends were completely frayed and I had the flag for many years, but don't know what happened to it.

**Bob Karrer (55)** - The Karrers left Seattle for Yokohama on the Simon Bolivar Buckner in July 1952. I remember the daily ship's "newspaper" told us about the deposing of King Farouk in Egypt & the Helsinki Olympics. I learned to play Hearts and Canasta on that trip. I remember the last morning when we steamed into Tokyo Bay past the shells of some Japanese defenses on the little islets at the entrance. All passengers received a little "Welcome to

Japan" flyer, and to our surprise it was signed by my dad, who was at that time Adjutant General of the Japan Logistical Command in Yokohama. We hit the back of a typhoon towards the end; everyone was sick and the mess half empty. In July 1954, after my junior year we had to PCS back to the States to my dismay and returned again on the SBB but to San Francisco where we passed under the Golden Gate Bridge in late afternoon and anchored in the bay not too far from Alcatraz Island before disembarking the next morning. Interestingly, my folks went over to Bremerhaven in the early 1960 on Space A to visit my brother who was then assigned to Karlsruhe, and they were again passengers on the old Buckner. I wonder what happened to her? BTW: the two Patricks were the M. M. "Mickey Mouse" and the other was the E.D., and she was a big ship like the Buckner. It seems to me that the MM and the Fulton were two ships that had been converted from oilers and were the joke of the fleet. Also, destroyers are most commonly named after people, not towns! Can anyone forget the festivities when the ships pulled out from the Yokohama piers? I remember the Army Band playing three songs; St Louis Blues March (from Glen Miller), California Here I Come as the ship started away, and finally "China Night" as the last of the streamers fell into the water. There were NO dry eyes when that song was played. I still have an old 78 record and sheet music of that song. I can see the sheet music on the player piano behind me and I ought to dig the record out to see if it is still alive. I wonder where it is too????? Hope I stirred up some memories "kids"... Bruce Eastley (56) writes: Can't believe so many memories you have revived just mentioning all those ships. During my time in Yokohama (1952-54), I considered myself a self-appointed "inspector" of the Navy and MSTS ships. I was down at the port as often as I could just to check them all out. But I think the only time I "cut" classes was to see my neighbor and friend, Bradley Hammond, off at the port. I think a lot of people believe that a ship has ONE sister ship, but not in the case of most of these military transports. The General Mann was mentioned...and she had 10 sisters...one of which was the General M.C. Meigs...the ship that was being towed from out of Puget Sound, bound for San Francisco, where she was to be laid up again. But off Cape Flattery the tow line apparently broke and the Meigs drifted ashore and broke in two. Other ships in this same class were the Pope, A.E. Anderson, Butner, Mitchell (of which I returned to Seattle on), Randall, Gordon, Breckinridge, Weigel and Richardson. Nothing wrong with these ships, but I didn't think they were as "classy" as eight ships in another category... the Sultan, Gaffey, Patch (I returned on it from Germany), Buckner, E.D. Patrick, Walker, Rose, and Darby. Obviously they all don't compare in luxury to today's cruise ships, but I was never bored seeing nothing but ocean for almost two weeks. Kathleen Krausse (60) wrote: I just read your e-mail about the ships the YOHI people went to Japan on. I, too, sailed back and forth from Japan as a child in the early 1950's. We went to Japan on the Randall and came back on the G.M. Patrick. Later my father, who was a naval officer, had a two year tour of duty on the Breckinridge which took passengers and troops over to Japan and back. Now, Ron (60) and I are about to take our very first cruise. We are off to the Caribbean on an 82,000 ton Holland America ship. Talk about those other ships being boats!! The Titanic was only 47,000 tons. I have always loved ships and am eagerly looking forward to this cruise, seasick

**Bill "Pinky" Hart (56)** writes - My family traveled from Seattle to Japan on the USS Randall in 1954. There was a rumor going around the ship the Captain wanted to set a new Pacific crossing record and I believed it. We made the trip, but (supposedly) the port wouldn't or couldn't allow the Randall to dock. So we traveled around in circles for a few days and must have kept going over a time zone line as it seemed we were forever being asked to move clocks back and then move them back up again. While I can't swear to it, I heard Elvis Presley was shipped to Germany via the Randall.

**Neil Sherman (59)** writes - I sailed twice to and from Japan. My first trip was in September 1949 and we sailed on the William O. Darby, an MSTS transport. I remember as a 9 year old the chairs that had a rope on the bottom of the seat that attached to the deck so that when you were eating you wouldn't slide on the deck. We returned to the States in 1952 on the H. B.

(See Boat or Ship on page 7)

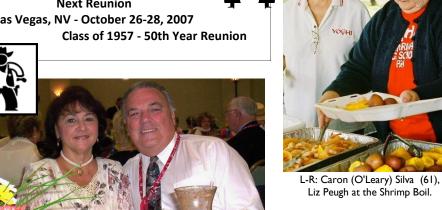
#### 2006 Houston Reunion



L-R: Charles MacIlvaine (57), Mike Smith

#### **Houston Reunion 2006**

**Next Reunion** Las Vegas, NV - October 26-28, 2007



Liz Peugh at the Shrimp Boil.



L-R: D.D. (Massengale) Kinsey (60). George Kin-



L-R: Lillian (Conte) DeChristofaro (59), Adie



Happy 50th Anniversary - Class of 1956! L-R: Walter "Bud" Rodee, Carol (Wardell) Kindel, Terry Slezak, Karen (Curtis) Meyer, Gary Porier, Adie (Muirhead) Holland, Craig Jennings, George Ratcliff.



Caron (O'Leary) Silva (61), Ron Peugh (59)



L-R Tex Lavery (57), Carol (Whittmaack) Cope (57)



Lynne McLaren



Ruth Slezak, Terry Slezak (56)



#### What Did You Want To Be When You Grew Up?

Did you ever wonder what ever happened to that student in school that was the Valedictorian, or was so good in athletics, or maybe played in the band? Most of us noted in the yearbook what we aspired to be after graduating, but did we actually achieve those goals?

- \*Jo-Ann Banke (55) Leave fond memories behind, I'm taking Richard with me became a flight attendant.
- \*Frank "Dale" Bellusci (61) Didn't know still doesn't know but he retired after 22 years in the Army, worked for the CIA, Dept of the Army, built condo's, and worked for Dell Computers.
- \*Martha Brigman (53) Study architecture, design homes, or maybe do stage design Graduated from FSU, worked for Houston Lighting & Power as a home economist & as office mgr for a business selling corrosive resistant products to industries.
- \*Karen Brixner (62) Journalism currently an Executive Assistant, but her real love is teaching quilting.
- \*Tim Brooks (55) Attend college After two years, he joined the Marines and later became an Optometrist. He retired June 2005 after 41 years in practice.
- \*John Conte (61) Lawyer became a detective on the New York Police Department for 21 years.
- \*Richard "Satch" Copeland (56) Pro baseball player or a football coach Retired from U.S. Navy (flier in Naval Aviation); Got an MEd in Education and was a high school PE teacher (coached baseball, football, and track), Athletic Director & track coach; Retired from Lockheed-Martin Aeronautical.
- \*Betty Creech (58) Navy nurse became a newspaper reporter.
- \*Bob Cumberledge (55) Professional football player -became a landscape contractor.
- \*Yvonne Fittz (59) Teacher has been doing missionary work and teaching in Third World countries for the last 40 years.
- \*Tom Gray (59) Farmer became an animal conservationist.
- \*Kathy Hebbe (60) Artist works with stained glass, painting, and porcelain dolls.
- \*Boyd Huddleston (61) professional tennis player became a candy salesman.
- \*Hugh Healy (61) Electrical engineer became a school teacher for 7 years, later worked in manufacturing material mgmt.
- \*Kaye Hoefke (55) Housewife and mother single mother who worked for city of Los Angeles for 30 years.
- \*Terry Irwin (55) Nuclear physicist became a systems engineer.
- \*Carolyn Kearney (59) Physical Education teacher became a bookkeeper.
- \*Russell Kelly (57) -Pathologist graduated from medical school, became a fish pathologist, and discovered a new fish herpes virus.
- \*Brenda Kneese (58) Stewardess became a landscaper.
- \*Al Koster (53) Attend the Naval Academy he did & had a 30 year Naval career, than worked for an engineering company for 11 years.
- \*Karen Lawson (58) English teacher attended UC Berkeley where she switched to Psychology and pursued it through the Ph.D. and 37 years of therapy practice. Now she works full time writing psychological thrillers.
- \*Heather MacLeod (62) Attend college and become an airline stewardess worked 34 years for UA as a customer service representative.
- \*Mac MacIlvaine (57) Legal officer in the Navy became city manager of Winters, Texas.
- \*Bob McGinley (56) Policeman became a policeman but didn't like it and became a production manager.
- \*Ken Miyamoto (59) Engineer became an eye doctor.
- \*Don Murdoch (60) Attorney became a special agent in Law Enforcement. Chris McGoughran (60) Travel worked 30 years for various airlines from reservations to management.
- \*Ginny Murphy (57) Airline stewardess became a housewife, then a court reporter. A "pain in the ass" according to husband (her words)
- \*Dick Payne (58) Exterminator had a career with IBM.
- \*Sue Perry (57) Nurse became one!
- \*Anitria Pullen (57) Physical education teacher became a flight attendant, then senior systems analysis.
- \*Michele Reilly (60) Teacher or doctor became a wife and actually ended up doing both.
- \*Roseanne Santorelli (60) Housewife and mother became one in addition to becoming a realtor, pastoral minister, & published writer.
- \*Patty Shelley (57) CPA and live in Washington DC went to business school & became a legal secretary.
- \*Ellen Shively (56) Physical Education teacher became a registered nurse.
- \*Louise Simon (58) Psychiatric social worker became an elementary school teacher.
- \*Terry Slezak (56) Medical doctor couldn't afford to go to Medical School, so he pursued his other love "photography" & graduated magnacome-lately from the New York Institute of Photography. Later went to work for NASA & retired after 35 years of government service.
- \*Carole Vann (61) State Department employee became a teacher, and later worked in the computer business
- \*Clarence Villemez (54) Doctor graduated from Purdue with a degree in Bio-Chemistry. Did bio-chemistry research for UC Berkeley, & now teaches molecular biology at the University of Wyoming.
- \*Betsy Ward (59) Teacher became an accountant.
- \*Will Weber (55) Army career was a motorcycle messenger in NYC, now in real estate.
- \*Priscilla Welbon (55) Nurse became a teacher.
- \*Jean Ellen Wilder (58) Concert pianist never learned to play the piano.
- \*Bob Wolinski (54) Pro baseball player became a heavy equipment operator.

(Boat or Ship)

Freeman. We had lots of Korean War veterans aboard. Our second trip was on the M. M. Patrick in 1956. This is when we moved to Sendai. I was in the 10th grade then. Later we moved to Yokohama then in January 1958 we returned to the States on the SS President Wilson. This was a great ship, pool and all - the forerunner to the modern cruise ship. Several members from Yo-Hi came to see us off. Thanks for the memories....



Tex Lavery (57) wrote - I sailed on the MSTS Randall also in early 1954 from Fort Lewis, Seattle....During the boat drill I helped my mother put her Mae West Life Jacket on by passing her legs through the arm holes...then tightening it on!!! When we showed up on deck at our assigned Life Boat... everyone went "apeshit" with laughter!!! I said," No sweat MOM...they'd find you upside down with your legs

sticking out of the water!" She was pissed at me for the rest of the trip to Yokohama...and ever since.

**Nelson Stickle (56)** writes - In writing this I'll probably start a big debate about the ships of MSTS that plied the Pacific. I will start with the Simon B. Buckner, as this vessel is the one I am most familiar with. After WWII, the Army started to acquire ships for their own use. During the war, the Navy provided uncertain sea transportation to the Army. The Army purchased many ships of various sizes. The largest type was the P-2 hull. A smaller type was the C-4 hull. I embarked from Fort Mason, CA on the maiden voyage (as an Army ship) in 1946 to Hawaii. She was just acquired from the Navy and was under the name, Admiral Eberly (P-4). It sticks in my mind that she was sailed by a Navy crew, and they were cleaning the ship by throwing overboard no longer needed equipment. On

subsequent voyages, all Army ships were crewed by DAC mariners. I believe she made one I more trip from CONUS to Hawaii. She was then laid up in a shipyard in New Yard for refurbishment and upgrading. There she was renamed the Simon B. Buckner (an Army general). Her maiden voyage (in 1949) she stopped in Hawaii, where I was able to board her for a tour. There I saw the massive refitting she got to become somewhat a liner. I then embarked from Hawaii on her second voyage. Her Captain was John Sandbote Jr. who was following in his father's footsteps. There were two Patricks. One was the M.M. (Mickey Mouse) C-4, and the Edwin D. (edi wan) P-2. There was also the Hase C-4. I have no other info. During the '46-'49 time frame, the Barrett was used in Hawaii for inter island trips from Oahu to Hilo. The Gaffey was a P-2. The Hoover was a contract ship from American President Lines (APL). The Monterey was also a contract ship from Matson Lines. In Jan 1954 I embarked for Fort Mason on the J. C. Breckinridge for Japan. On that trip, we went about 200 miles out of our way to aid a Coast Guard weather ship with medicines for a sick crew man. A line transfer was used in very rough seas. As the weather ship, about the size of a can was coming up on our stern, the sea was breaking over the forward 5" mount. It was quite a sight, as the first lines thrown (not shot) landed on the weather ship and the transfer of the medicine was accomplished quickly. We endured the high seas from a storm that was north of us. We arrived in Yokohama on time but a ship due right after us was delayed three days. The Sultan and the Walker were MSTS ships. The ships of MSTS were Army and therefore were named after generals, as Navy cargo ships were named after Admirals.

#### A YO-HI Story - Fifty Years Ago by Elaine (Hulse) Evans (FAC 56-58)

At Northwestern University, Evanston, III. on August 15, 1956, I received a Western Union telegram from the San Francisco Bay Area Terminal Center, Fort Mason, CA. requesting me to report August 22nd to Fort Lawton, Seattle, WA. for air transport to Japan.

I was met at the Tokyo airport by two teachers from Yokohama, who informed me I would be teaching high school music at YO-HI. Eventually, a staff car delivered me to the high school where I met Coach Buxkemper, who was anxiously awaiting the arrival of his elementary school teacher fiance, Harriet Ewing. Their wedding was to be performed shortly after Labor Day. Bux said" We can't hang around here on a holiday!" and drove

me and a couple of other teachers to JTB where arrangements were made for a week-end at the Hakone Hotel on the shores of Lake Hakone.

This significant introduction to Japan was followed by a memorable year of teaching. On November 18th, our small but talented band won the grand first place trophy at the International Music Contest. It was presented to us by Governor Uchiyama at the Kanagawa Prefecture Auditorium. This was followed by the rousing performance by our sixty-one voiced mixed chorus December 14th musical, "One Night On Broadway." "IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR!!"

#### JAPANESE TRIVIA

- \* Over 3 million people (the equivalent of New Zealand's population) pass through Tokyo's Shinjuku station every day, making it the busiest train station in the world.
- "Sakura", the cherry tree, is extremely popular in Japan, and during the cherry blossom season in March/April, everyone goes to the park and parties under the trees. However, you will rarely see a cherry tree in a private garden. The short time in which the blossoms bloom and then fall is considered to be bad luck for the man of the house, suggesting his life will end quickly just like the cherry blossoms.



- \* The number, "13", has no special significance in Japan, but the number, "4", pronounced "shi," sounds like the Japanese word for "death." As a result, hospitals and hotels rarely have rooms numbered "4". Also, dishes (a common wedding present) are always sold in sets of three or five. Giving any gift in a set of four on any occasion is considered very bad form.
- \* Japan has more active volcanoes than any other country in the world.
- \* The longest suspension bridge in the world is the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge connecting Kobe with Awaji Island. Opened in 1998, the central span is 6,570 feet in length. That's about 1.5 times the size of the Golden Gate Bridge, and 4 times the size of the Brooklyn Bridge. The Akashi Kaikyo Bridge also has the tallest bridge towers in the world, at 928 feet.

#### **READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?**

**Carol Briggs ('58)** has written a book: "Taken in Hong Kong: December 8, 1941: Memoirs of Norman Briggs World War II Prisoner of War!" It is the story of her father, Norman Briggs, during the first months after Pearl Harbor.

Steve Radford ('64), author of "Yokohama Rods" asks if anyone

has read his book and wants their opinion His self-published book was written ten years ago and deals with the YO-HI classes of 1964 and 1965. To quote Steve...."What a bunch of pirates)". He thinks that the book may be a



bit much for the sedate 50's crowd. Let us know if you agree!



**Sharon (Dravland) Nichols (56)** has asked that we help in locating her 1954 YO-HI yearbook which was left at the San Diego reunion. If anyone has it, she would love to get it back. It has an ink stain on the front cover and, of course, all the entries are addressed to Sharon. Contact her at 2607 Lakewest Drive, Chico, CA 95928 - (530) 343-6766 - Email: bobsharonchico@sbcglobal.net

In July of 2008, **Norberto "Bert" Melliza (63)** will be escorting youth exchange students from California to Japan and plans to visit the vicinity around our old school. But....he can't remember any of the street names around YO-HI or any places that were popular students hangouts. If you can help, contact Bert at 2757 Heritage Park Lane, Sacramento, CA 95835 (916) 515-4932 - Email: bertmelz@juno.com

#### YOU MIGHT BE A MILITARY BRAT if you.....

- Are commonly asked, "Is it hard always moving around?" and you don't know anything different.
- \* Go to a grocery store, but insist on calling it a "commissary".
- Ever bagged groceries at the commissary on payday.
- Had and still have hospital corners on your bed.
- \* Don't really know the answer to the question, "What is your home town?."
- Ever feared turning 21 because they would take your ID Card away.

#### "EXPLORING OUR JAPANESE ROOTS in 2007" with Dr. Philip McLaren (58)



Japanese culture has evolved greatly over the years, from the country's original Jomon culture to its contemporary hybrid culture, which combines influences from Asia, Europe, and North America. You are invited to explore your educational heritage and

your common Japanese experience with your YO-HI FSA group on a terrific trip to Japan from October 6-18, 2007. Highlights of the trip will include opportunities to explore Tokyo's cultural wonders (e.g., Tokyo Tower, Meiji Shrine, Asakusa Kannon Temple); visit the Yamate Cho Foreign Housing Museum; enjoy the sites of Niko; walk through the Tsurugaoku Hachimangu Shrine; travel aboard the bullet train to Kyoto for performances

of traditional Japanese music, dance, drama and a tea ceremony at the Gion corner; tour the Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Park; and participate in a variety of formal and informal facilitated discussions. Land and air cost per person is \$5547.00 and includes: all in-country accommodations, transportation, international air from Detroit and a west coast location (to be determined), internal train travel, expert local guide, activities and most meals. For more information on this wonderful trip through your past and present, contact Dr. Philip McLaren at (617) 745-3554 - email: j.philip.mclaren@enc.edu or Sandy Doss at Holbrook Travel at sdoss@holbrooktravel.

#### YO-HI Maui Splash 2007

Earl White (58), aka "The Big Kahuna", is planning a trip to Maui, Hawaii for YO-HI exes, their family and friends in May, 2007. Earl has negotiated a terrific hotel rate of \$210 /night at the Sheraton at Kaanapali Beach, Maui. The hotel is located 15 minutes from beautiful historic Lahaina. Rooms have been reserved for our group from 5/9/07 - 5/16/07. Additional days can be booked at our special rate of \$210 from 5/6- 5/19. Check out the hotel at their website: www.sheraton-maui.com. There will be one special group event at a cost of \$100 if you want to attend.

You will have to book your own air travel to Maui. If you are interested in this trip, contact Earl White at earlwhite2@cox.net with the number of attendees. It is going to be a great trip for YO-HI folks, their friends and family to get together on a beautiful tropical island in paradise. Mahalo......

#### Made in Japan

<u>Danah Van Keuren 63 (60-62) and David</u> <u>Nelson</u>

Danah attended YO-HI during her sophomore and junior years, and David was a Marine MP, on the Yokosuka Naval Base where she lived. Every time the school bus went through the main gate, she would look for the handsome young Marine, hoping he would be on duty. Danah mentions that David always looked particularly gallant in his military uniform, especially to a young school girl with a big crush. One day in 1961, she attended a Seahawks baseball game on the base, and David happened to be sitting in front of her on the bleachers. He turned around, introduced himself, and love bloomed. She left Japan for Sacramento, CA in 1962, and, as the ship pulled away from the dock, the streamer they were holding grew tighter until it finally broke. In 1963, David returned to the states, looked her up in Sacramento, and they rekindled their rela-

tionship. They married in 1964, and were happily married for 26 years until his untimely death in 1990. They have two grown sons, and three grandchildren.

Danah is still single, and currently teaches English as a Second Language at America River College in Sacramento. She also spends her summers doing short-term mis-



sion work in Albania. She now calls Citrus Heights, CA home.

<u>Jan Bready 70 (66-69)and William "Bill"</u> <u>Sims - 68 (64-68)</u>

Jan and Bill were just good friends while attending school in Japan, however Jan did sign his yearbook "Love You, Jan". Possibly a clue? Jan

returned to Texas and graduated from

Killeen HS, while Bill ended up in CA graduating from Encinatas HS. Bill had a 20 year Air Force career, and Jan worked as an Oil and Gas Comptroller for 20 years. Over the years they both married others, and each began searching the internet for lost friends from the YO-HI years. Through Mike Roley (68), they found each other once again and helped with the planning of the 2000 Las Vegas Reunion. Shortly thereafter, Bill's wife became ill and he used Jan as a sounding board. Bill's wife passed away, Jan's marriage ended, and two good friends fell in love. They were married on January 13, 2002 in Las Vegas, NV. Jan is now working for United American Insurance, and Bill for Signa Health Care. They presently reside in Sherman, TX where Jan enjoys reading, and searching for alums, while Bill likes to design web sites, and works with Veterans Affairs. Collectively they do voluntary work with the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

#### **THE CLASS REUNION** - Submitted by Reldon Gifford (54)

Every ten years, as summertime nears, an announcement arrives in the mail, A reunion is planned; it'll be really grand; make plans to attend without fail. I'll never forget the first time we met; we tried so hard to impress. We drove fancy cars, smoked big cigars, and wore our most elegant dress. It was quite an affair; the whole class was there. It was held at a fancy hotel. We wined, and we dined, and we acted refined, and everyone thought it was swell. The men all conversed about who had been first to achieve great fortune and fame. Their spouses described their fine houses, and how beautiful their children became. The homecoming queen, who once had been lean, now weighed in at one-ninety-six. The jocks who were there had all lost their hair, and the cheerleaders could no longer do kicks. No one had heard about the class nerd who'd guided a spacecraft to the moon; Or poor little Jane, who's always been plain; she married a shipping tycoon. The boy we'd decreed "most apt to succeed" was serving ten years in the pen. The one voted "least to succeed" now was a priest; just shows you can be wrong now and then. They awarded a prize to one of the guys who seemed to have aged the least. Another was given to the grad who had driven the farthest to attend the feast. They took a class picture, a curious mixture of beehives, crew cuts and wide ties. Tall, short, or skinny, the style was the mini; you never saw so many thighs. At our next get-together, no one cared whether they impressed their classmates or not. The mood was informal, a whole lot more normal; by this time we'd all gone to pot. It was held out-of-doors, at the lake shores; we ate hamburgers, coleslaw, and beans. Then most of us lay around in the shade, in our comfortable T-shirts and jeans. By the fortieth year, it was abundantly clear, we were definitely over the hill. Those who weren't dead had to crawl out of bed, and be home in time for their pill. And now I can't wait; they've set the date; our fiftieth is coming, I'm told. It should be a ball, they've rented a hall at the Shady Rest Home for the old. Repairs have been made on my hearing aid; my pacemaker's been turned up on high. My wheelchair is oiled, and my teeth have been boiled; and I've bought a new wig and glass eye. I'm feeling quite hearty, and I'm ready to party I'm gonna dance 'til dawn's early light. It'll be lots of fun; but I just hope that there's one other person who can make it that night. .....Author Unknown

#### **CLASS NEWS**

#### Class of 1955

Our class was happy to have found two of our former classmates—Ethylyn Dvorak (DeStefano), and Bob Coker. We were sorry to hear of the death of our classmate, Rose Charles.

After graduation from YO-HI, Ethylyn Dvorak married Frank DeStefano, a lifeguard who was working at the Yokohama pool. This past July, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have four grown children and six grandchildren.. Ethylyn retired from Gallaudet University as an Administrator for the Chair of the Amer- Ethylyn (Dvorak) ican Sign Language Department and now works part-time for Ferris, Baker, Watts, Inc. Her hobbies include reading and traveling. Among the many places the couple has visited are India, China, Spain, Mexico, Can-



DeStefano at installation as Division President for the International Association of Professional Secretar-

ada and Switzerland. A cruise to some of the Greek Islands is coming up next August. They have lived in Washington, D.C., for more than 30 years and now live in Bethesda, MD. As a little aside, Priscilla (Welbon) Ewy also dated a lifeguard at the Yokohama pool the summer after graduation and it turns out that her date worked for Frank DeStefano in Special Services.

Bob Coker joined the Navy and stayed in for 20 years. After retirement, he used the GI Bill to earn a BS at the University of Maryland and a MS from George Washington University (Telecommunications Operations). He then began a second career as a federal employee with the Navy Dept. in Washington, DC. After retirement in 1994, he bought a boat and now does a lot of fishing. He and his wife, Marcia, have three sons. Bob also wrote "I enlisted in the Navy in 1955 and subsequently retired in 1974. Along the way, I married my wife, Marcia, in 1962 and we have three sons. One son was born in Japan while I was stationed aboard a ship home ported in Yokosuka. That was in 1969-1970 and the Personnel Officer aboard the ship somehow found out that I had attended YO-HI. He took my GED high school diploma up to YO-HI and surprised me with an official Niles C. Kinnick High School diploma, dated January 1970! I should have graduated in 1955, so where does that leave me on your lists?"

#### **Class of 1958**

The Rev. (Dr.) Kathryn Bailey Moore had 38 years of active service and 4 years retired with the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. At the May 2006 BWAC, she was recognized as the longest serving Woman Clergyperson in the conference. When she started in 1964, there was one other, now deceased, but this summer over 100 women clergy from the BWAC attended an International Clergywomen's Conference. Now THAT'S progress.

#### Class of 1962

Classmates of **Gunzo Tanaka** were very sadly surprised to

with his entire family at his side. He was one of the most cheerful, friendly and energetic members of the 1962 class. Gunzo is remembered as a fun loving, caring individual with a great sense of humor. He was the Tanaka family clown, always having them in stitches at home. For some of us at YO-HI, Yokohama was our first experience in the Far East, and we could not have asked for a better classmate to make us welcome. Gunzo was a member of the YO-HI football team and was active in many school activities. He was one person the whole class knew. After graduation, Gunzo spent a couple of years at International Christian University in Mitaka, Tokyo. He then moved to Colorado, and lived with an aunt and her family while working at different jobs. He attended La Junta Jr. College was was hired by Japan Air Lines as Marketing Manager in Denver, CO. While traveling with his job, he met his future wife in Tokyo. They married in the 70's, and had three sons, Cyrus, Jason and Robert. Gunzo had a great family and he loved life. He is missed very much.

Diana (Dedi) Hanson - Do you know who wanted to do something that involved traveling and instead became a legal assistant, and now owns an 18 wheeler, drives the highways, and goes by her CB name "Spicy" and her email is "spyceeeeeee"? Well, she's the prolific e-mailer, Diana Hanson. Originally from Corpus Christi, TX, Diana went to many schools as a military dependent. Her sophomore year was at Iwakuni Air Station and she was at YO-HI for her junior and senior years. After graduating, Diana was one of a group of YO-HI grads who went, by train, to Sophia University in Tokyo for a year. Tom Miller ('62) was her classmate at Sophia. She remembers running to catch the last train at night. Returning to the States with her family by ship in '63, Diana was met at the pier by Jim Pebworth whom she'd met in Japan. They promptly ran off and got married in Las Vegas. They had two boys and, after her divorce in '76, Diana raised the boys and now has six grandchildren - four boys and two girls - and one great-grandson!! Diana worked for many years in Phoenix as a legal assistant but, when it got unbearably boring, fate stepped in and a guy on a Harley came into her life. He turned out to be a truck driver and Diana went out on the road with him and discovered a new passion. In 1993, she went back to Phoenix, got a commercial driver's license, and began a new career as a truck driver. Diana now owns her own 18-wheel tractor/trailer (a burgundy/purple Volvo 770 with all the features of a mini-camper - TV, refrigerator, microwave, and more) Her company name is "Cactus Patch Trucking", AND she owns a Harley. Diana finds that the neat thing about being a truck driver is she travels all over the US, sightseeing, listening to books on CD, and getting reacquainted with former YO-HI friends that she finds through the YO-HI website. After living in Taylorsville, UT, she is back in Phoenix, where most of her family lives.

Diana would like to hear from you at spyceeeeee@yahoo.com



#### In Memoriam

- \* Thomas F. Brady (1960) Tom Brady, Jr. reported that his father died on May 2, 2000 in Chicago, IL.
- Leona V. Brady (FAC 1956-57) Tom Brady, Jr. reported that his grandmother died on October 15, 1995 in Chicago, IL.
- Tommy Blowers (1955) Marty Hirsch reported that Tommy passed away in December 1961.
- \* Rose Charles (1955) Her brother, Harold Charles, reported that Rose passed away in 1985 from breast cancer.
- \* Jean Collins (1961) Her brother, Patrick Collins ('64) reported that Jean passed away October 4, 2006 after a long battle with cancer.
- \* James W. Diesem (1956) Passed away on April 7, 2005 in Harpers Ferry, WV.
- Richard A. Fajardo (1959) His wife, Carol, reported that Richard passed away on April 24, 2003 from a heart attack.
- \* Robert Gutenkauf (1960) His brother, Jay Gutenkauf, ('59) reported that Bob died unexpectedly in his sleep on October 13, 2006.
- \* Lewis S. Ladas (1959) Passed away on May 10, 1996 in West Haven, CT
- \* Julia Nell Mann (1961) Passed away on February 26, 2004 in Washington D.C. from an apparent heart attack.
- \* David H. McKee (1958) Beep Dodd reported that David passed away on March 26, 2006 from health problems related to his war injuries.
- \* Sandy Sowers (1959) Passed away on July 19, 2003 from cancer.
- \* Billene Stevens (1958) Passed away on July 2, 2004 in Willow Springs, MD.
- \* Terry Walton (1964) Tony Brandon ('63) reported that Terry passed away irom kidney cancer on October 1, 2006 in San Diego, CA.

#### Treasurer's Report



Carol (Wittmaack) Cope ('57) submitted the following financial report for the YO-HI FSA organization for June 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006.

The opening balance for the FSA account was \$13566.71 (General Fund - \$11351.71; Scholarship Fund - \$2215.00). Deposits in the account were for the General Fund

(\$5.00) and Annual Dues (\$430.00). Expenses included the printing and mailing of the Roster and Newsletter (\$669.76) and Membership Cards (\$39.00). The current balance in the ac-

count is \$13292.95.

Only 350 exes out of the 900+ listed on the roster paid dues last year. Annual dues of \$10.00 are used to publish and mail out the roster, newsletter and membership cards. They are also used to give reunion startup funds to the hosts for the next reunion.

To pay your dues, use the 2007 Dues form below.

10				
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Name	Maiden Name			
Year of Graduation	Years at YO-HI		····	
Spouse's Name				
Address				
City			Zip code	
Phone	Email Address			
Make your check payable to: <b>YO-HI</b> Mail your check <u>and</u> this form to: Carol Wittmaack Cope P.O. Box 2182 Joshua Tree, CA 92252	FSA	☐ Che	ck if personal information has ch	ıange

#### **Contact Information**

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Larry Rowe ('58)

(325) 651-5890 email: jnjrowe@wcc.net

**Vice Chairperson** 

Charlotte "Pickles" (Ryser) Carey ('59) (713) 467-5720 email: voyager03@ev1.net

**Secretary** 

Ron Peugh ("59)

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**Treasurer** 

Carol (Wittmaack) Cope ('57)

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**Newsletter Editor** 

Julie (Sadilek) Moore ('59)

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Got News? Contact your Class Representative....

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Class of 55

Priscilla (Welbon) Ewy ('55)

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Class of 56

Patricia (Andry) Klump ('56)

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Class of 59

Betsy (Ward) Hatfield ('59)

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Bert Donaldson ('62)

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Class of 64-FAC

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YO-HI Web Site

Owner: Jim Hyatt

Email: jameshjim@aol.com

Http://yohidevils.net

**Overseas Brats** 

President: Joe Condrill

Email: joeosbpres@aol.com

Http://www.overseasbrats.com

YO-HI Former Students Association c/o Larry Rowe, General Chairman 3129 Edgewood Dr. San Angelo, TX 76903