

TigerTales!

The Newsletter for 50s and 60s Alumni of Taipei American School

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Tales of Myself...

If May is here, can spring be far behind? New England had more than its share of snow this year, and I spent many days staying home and drinking tea. We laughed after the first 6 feet of snow, and laughed even harder when we had 2 three-foot snow storms a few days apart. Needless to say, the yard is full of plants damaged by the ice and snow. But then again, a few weeks of sun will probably perk up some of the crippled, and they will be as good as gold again.



Winchester, MA 2011

So I leave Boston on occasion for warmer climes. In March, I spent St. Patrick's Day in Key West with my daughter Leslie, revisiting my home during the summer of '63, where I lived 5 blocks from Duval Street as a 20-year-old while my husband Larry was stationed there, and where Leslie was born.

—SEK
(sekeats@verizon.net)

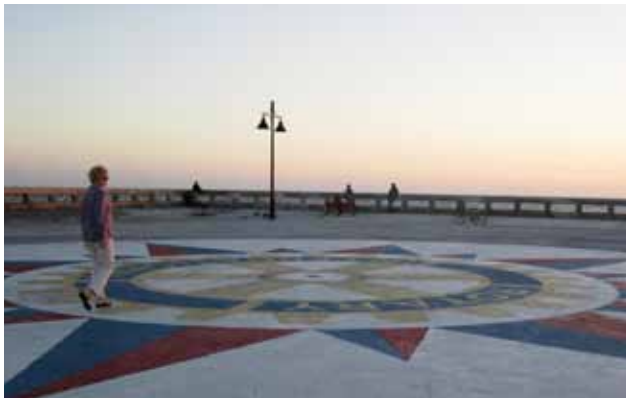
Tales of Barbara Helm...

For those of you who love Mac laptops, friends, and photographs, you can rest assured that Barbara Blandford Helm is doing her part to keep her friends and family connected. Barb manages to wrestle everyone's most recent images of their lives, adventures, and family events, and one is drawn to scan all the images to see what's going on in the lives of many, many people.



Another Reunion!

For Early 60s Classmates
Myrtle Beach, SC, Labor Day 2011
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At the Southernmost point in the US

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Tales of Barbara Helm...

Barb is also the driver of a traditional TAS Reunion in mid winter in the VA/DC area, held at a local Chinese restaurant. The group stays relatively the same size and people return year after year to catch up and report on new sightings of other Tigers in the world



Front: Sandy Starbuck Mabry '60, Elaine Parker Williams '59, Charlene Wang Gridley '60, Barbara Blandford Helm '60

Back: Steve Howard '61, Ed "Skip" Rodriguez '62, Cindi Wingard Lynn '70, Ann Ogden West '59, Gayle Parker Geddes (Elaine Parker Williams' daughter), Kathy Shinners Elky '62, Ginny Bristow Meyer '65, Bonnie Tsai, Peter Tsai



Barbara writes, "We gathered on a rainy cold day that did not have snow! The total was about 22 and we ate and ate and ate. Marcia Dutton Talley has volunteered to host a Double Ten Day gathering on October 8th [2011] (close enough). More details as they become known to me but go ahead and mark your calendar."

If you are interested in attending the next winter reunion in Virginia, contact Barbara Blandford Helm for details at: barbhelm@mac.com

From our Email Bag

Last fall, we received this email from Elaine Parker '58:

We are fairly new in Peachtree City, GA. Tonight we went with some of Norm's golfing friends to the club for dinner and music.

Norm has played golf with John for several months. Tonight I met and was talking to his wife Brenda about true friends and how mine were my military friends from high school, and later with Norm in the AF. She said that her husband was raised in the military also. Anyway, the bottom line is that John is John Inman from the class of 1961 at TAS. He knows several of you and we could not believe that we'd both been there. What a small world.

He mentioned several of you (the music was loud!! so I could not catch all of the names). But, Jamie, he wondered if you still had your restaurant and Caroll, he remembered that you were really friendly and very talented. A lot of the others I could not catch.

We are going out to dinner soon when we can have a better time of communicating. What fun that was! I was not there when he was, but John remembered the time at TAS as one of his happiest ...senior island etc. (Me too!)

Here is his email address if any of you would like to contact him. I know he would really enjoy hearing from you.

Time disappears in the world of TAS

What wonderful memories for all of us!!!

— Elaine '58
elwparker@gmail.com

(John(ny) Inman can be found at
brendainman@bellsouth.net

From our Email Bag

When we first heard from Jay Thacher '64, it was July of 2009 and he was off on an adventure:

" I am flying to Taipei on the 18th of this month [July 2009], will get a day in Taipei, then down to Kaohsiung where I will be an official for the 2009 World Games*. I am the boat driver for the water ski event. ... I have been involved with competitive water ski for many years, and serve on the USA Waterski International Activities Committee that selects teams to compete in international events. I am also involved in judging and driving. (I actually drove the 2001 World Games in Akita, Japan, and the '04 Jr. World Championships in Flensburg, East Germany.) This year, the Federation selected me to drive the World Games 2009, so I am off to Taiwan.

We caught up with him this winter to hear more about his trip:

"It was a great trip - I was the Chief Boat Driver (only boat driver) for the entire event, which usually is 2 or 3 drivers, but it was great nonetheless. Teams from all over the world were present, and they interspersed the 3 Events: skiing, i.e. Slalom, Tricks, and Jumping with the Barefoot and Wakeboard Events. I drove only Traditional Skiing, i.e. Slalom, Tricks, Jumping.

Busy week; up at o'dark hundred and back to hotel after dark, but rewarding.



More from Jay:

'Flew into Taipei, had a car for the day, and drove all over from Peitou to Shi Lin to Shiminding, to Tien Mou, etc., and still knew my way around, which was totally unbelievable. Stopped at TAS and got a tour of the new school. It is right where the tree used to be on the Taipei side.

After the tournament in Kaohsiung, I took the bullet train back to Taipei, air to Tokyo, and then to Beijing, where I got off and wandered around for a couple of days before return back to states.

The old compound PX, Commissary etc., is gone and new building being done, the O Club is now the American Club or something of that nature, and still present.

The Grand Hotel has been torn down and a NEW GRAND HOTEL sits where the old one used to be.

(Contact Jay at: Jthacher@fairfaxcounty.gov)



*The World Games is an Olympic sponsored event held every 4 years on an off-year of Olympics designed to give younger up and coming athletes the experience of living in Olympic village and international competition, as well as a venue to show off new sports that are seeking to move from being an Olympic sport to an OLYMPIC MEDAL SPORT-- a real upgrade.

Another Reunion!!

For Early 60s Classmates
Myrtle Beach, SC, Labor Day 2011

Get on the Train!

So Gary Zaccagnini '62 has this entire event planned down to the music. And here are the details:

I've picked the TAS Festivus Maximus hotel, the Westgate Restort. It's conveniently in the middle of the Grand Strand, has the amenities we need and within walking distance of lots of fun stuff. The Westgate is a middle-of-the-road hotel on the strip. Two factors led me to the decision. The location is great and we get a lot of bang for our bucks.

Here are the package rates:

Accommodations: Ocean Front Standard Hotel Room with 2 double beds, mini fridge, coffee maker, iron and ironing board, in room safe, and balcony with direct view of the ocean.

Trip includes: 5 night's accommodations, and banquet dinner. Price is inclusive of all taxes and gratuities.

(Occupancy)
Single \$778.85
Double \$414.50
Triple \$292.95
Quad \$232.22

Accommodations: City View Standard Hotel Room with 2 double beds, mini fridge, coffee maker, iron and iron board, in room safe, and balcony with view of Ocean Blvd.

Trip includes 5 nights' accommodations, and banquet dinner. Price is inclusive of all taxes and gratuities.

(Occupancy)
Single \$665.85
Double \$357.93
Triple \$255.29

Busy week; up at o'dark hundred and back to hotel after dark, but rewarding.

The package includes:

5 nights' accommodations at the Westgate Myrtle Beach Oceanfront Resort and use of all resort amenities during your stay.

Exclusive use of our hospitality Suite -
August 31-Sept. 5, 2011
Use of our Banquet Hall Thursday -
September 1, 2011 w/ Cash Bar
Dinner Banquet on Sunday -
September 4, 2011 w/ Cash Bar

Our group code is 14-126.

Call Jessica Masso at 843-448-4481 x 7722 and mention the group code to book your reservations. She is on-site, so if you have any questions, Jessica should be able to answer them. There are some upgrades available in case you are interested.

I have made one of my amateur videos to give you a feeling for the resort and the area. The Westgate Resort has a website, but I believe the video will give you more information.

<http://vimeo.com/23204604>



The video shows only those places within walking distance from the resort. Remember, we have 60 miles of the Grand Strand. I will have activities planned every day and night during the 5-day stay. Most of them require

driving but I think we should have enough cars for everyone to have a ride. In addition, I will have alternative activities. Plan "A" might be a trip to the Marsh Walk for a bar-crawl, but a group might prefer Plan "B", a half-day cruise on one of the gambling boats. There are lots of alternatives.

Now that I have the hotel decision out of the way, I will be in touch with information about the activities. If anyone wants a roommate, let me know. I'll see what I can do. However, if you want somebody of the opposite gender, you're gonna have to work that out for yourself. :)
Festivus Maximus!!!

Contact Zac at GZac@sccoast.net

More From our Email Bag

Michael Adams '66 wrote to us about his adventure:

My wife and I planned a trip to San Antonio to experience the Riverwalk, the San Fernando Cathedral and the Alamo. I knew several TAS Alumni lived in the area, so I started emailing those I had addresses for. I tried to contact Roland Keller. Kurt tried to contact Robin Dale and Marci tried to contact Monica Valley Yacinda, her younger sister. No luck on those three.

So through email, we made arrangements to meet on St. Patrick's Day, at Gruene, Texas, which is somewhat centrally located to the three of us. San Antonio was only 35 minutes away and Marci and Bob were coming from Georgetown and Kurt and Pam were coming from Fischer. Kurt Trede and Pam Reppert met at the 2004 reunion in Long Beach. Melinda Jones introduced them but they did not see much of each other at Long Beach. They had a long distance relationship over the internet. They will be celebrating their 5th anniversary this year.

So we met at the Gristmill Restaurant in Gruene (pronounced GREEN by Texans) which is about 40 minutes NW of San Antonio. TAS'ers Class of 1966, Michael Adams, Marci Valley Pugh and Kurt Trede met for dinner. Kurt, wife Pam, Marci, husband Bob and Michael and Cathy had a wonderful meal and reconnected. Kurt and Michael renewed friendships at the reunion in Long Beach.



From left, Kurt Trede, Marci Valley Pugh, and Michael Adams, all class of '66.

Marci Valley Pugh has been hiding for 45 years. Michael found her on the internet about 15 years ago and has kept in touch ever since. It was amazing how comfortable all felt with one another, even after all this time. We reminisced, caught up on all the events of our past/present lives and just had a great time. The food and beer flowed for over 4 hours! Kurt and Pam picked up the tab.....Thanks.

Next time it is on us!

Find Mike at: madams712@gmail.com



From left, Pam Reppert Trede, Michael Adams, Bob Pugh, Marci Valley Pugh, Kurt Trede, and Cathy Adams.

TigerTales! is published twice yearly, in the Spring and Fall, for the alumni, faculty, parents and staff of the 50s and 60s at Taipei American School.

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More from our Email Bag

Carmen Stansbury Peyer '61 wrote to us following their travels:

"I don't usually contribute but since you're looking for vacation thoughts I will share two wonderful trips we [Carmen and husband Hans Peyer] had this past year.

The first was last Sept. when we spent two weeks in South Africa and Botswana. We visited two camps in Botswana and one in South Africa. It was truly magnificent. The accommodations were luxurious, the people gentle and kind, the food & settings spectacular and the game was a wonder. From lions, to elephants to rhinos to giraffes to zebras, leopards, cheetahs, hippos, monkeys, several types of bok, hyenas. Guides and trackers are so knowledgeable. Being in their habitat and watching their interaction was great fun.



Then in March, we took a cruise from Dubai to Athens, stopping in Oman, Fugara-(and other Emirates), Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Jordan to see Petra, two ports in Egypt-the temples of Luxor to the pyramids, a visit to Jerusalem and Bethlehem and ending in Athens. Every port was exciting.

We went through the Gulf of Aden and had a lockdown for 26 hours--no use of balconies, and decks were all closed, as we hoped to avoid the pirates. But the Navy was within sight and sent a helicopter to keep an eye on things.



Dubai is a very modern city--we stayed in a resort in the desert 45 min. outside the city--rode the camel, did the dune ride, etc.



And then in Egypt where they live like in Biblical times, I was fascinated with the people and their garb and their cell phones! Israel is a beautiful country-clean, everyone is working-of course, and there is an armed policeman on every corner. As you cross over to Palestine to Bethlehem it all deteriorates. Fascinating contrasts. It was such an incredible experience and we were glad we went when we did. And being in Saudi I thought so much of Jan Falls Aruscavage who lived there for several years-women still have no authority.

I think that's enough of my rambling!
Regards, Carmen Stansbury Peyer
happyswissaz@gmail.com

More From our Email Bag

Marty O'Malley '63 writes about his new brilliant career:



Marty playing with the Moon Dogs, Jan. 2011

I have become a full-time musician playing percussion; congas, tom toms, bongos, and timbales... anything I can bang on. I play on and off with 7 bands in Albuquerque and Santa Fe; rock, jazz, Latin jazz, even country. I most recently played with Cher's Tour Band, South By Southwest out of Nashville, Greg Abate - world class sax player from Newport, and Pete Amahl who just toured Asia with the bass player from the Rolling Stones. I love it and even get paid to have the time of my life. Two TASers were at one of my gigs, Penny Hennessee and her younger sister. I sang a Ricky Nelson and Fats Domino song for old time's sake. It was good to see them.

I retired as CEO of Builders Trust of New Mexico in 2005. I much prefer this world to the business world.



Looking forward to the Myrtle Beach reunion. I'm bringin' my drums.

omalley_marty@yahoo.com

[Hey Marty, how can we find your gigs???)

Excerpts from the Story of TAS

This is a continuation of an occasional column on the history of TAS, through excerpts from *Ties That Bind*, by Richard Vuylsteke.

(In the Spring 2009 issue, we wrote about the beginning of the school, ending with the fact that two points have been constant in the history of the school: the curriculum is American, and the students are international.)

"The school outgrew its original church venue as more missionaries and business people fled the mainland, and by the end of 1951, there were about 120 students. It moved in 1952 to a large building enclosed by a courtyard, at 26 Nung-an East Road.

At that time, the school was seen as a temporary setup, as most anticipated returning to the mainland at the end of the civil war. However, the war encroached on Taiwan when threats of attack became a daily occurrence. In the late 1940s, the US did not support China, as it was critical of the Nationalist Party's ability to govern and stabilize the country. By the end of 1949, Mao Tse-tung had taken over the People's Republic of China, and the ROC government and Nationalist troops evacuated China and went to Taiwan. The US distanced itself from the civil war, issuing a statement of nonintervention, thus setting the scene for the fall to Communist forces.

Less than six months later, in June, 1950, with the threat of war in Korea, President Truman ordered the US Seventh Fleet into the Taiwan Strait and deployed American ground troops to Korea. As well, General Douglas MacArthur traveled to Taiwan to meet with Chiang Kai-shek, and reinstated a relationship that still exists today. In October, 1950, Chinese Communist troops were involved and responsible for many American casualties. The events guaranteed the need for the US to have a presence in the area, namely on Taiwan. The military buildup continued even after the Korean Armistice was signed in July, 1953, and the US Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) in Taiwan was formed and became the military support for the island for many years thereafter.

***Ties That Bind*, Copyright 1999, Taipei American School**