

Frankfurt American High School Alumni Association

Bald Eagles Echo

Editor:
Gaye Crosby Smith

NEWSLETTER

August 1990

A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT GAYLE SPEAR CRATTY:

Dear Fellow Classmates:

The reunion in San Antonio was a smash hit! If you attended the reunion in D.C. in 1989, then you know how funny the jokes could get. But trust me when I tell you that none of us stopped laughing at the one-liners and situations which occurred this year. You missed a great time with the following people, and we were all looking for you!

1966: Bob Bepko

1967: Joe Haugen
Phil Bepko
Steve Kuckelman
Guinn Unger & Shauna

Lennie Morris Knowlton
Larry Ehrhardt
Mike Schanzer

1968: Bob Taylor
Don Ayers & Yvonne
"Charlie" Rosel

Bob Samborski & Travis
Stuart Knowlton
David Berlad & Nancy

1969: **Steve Bari**
Bobbie Thacker
Monica Olson
Pat Kelley
Deane Harimoto
Bill Brooks
Krys Wages
Bob Bolick
Bob Mathison & Deb

Mary Burns
Jill Nippert
Robb Kilby & Gail
Gaye Spear Cratty & Tom
Gaye Crosby
Pete-r van Witt
Greg Moldenhauer
Lynn Kuckelman
Patsy Ketchum

1970: Pat Allen
Joye Crosby
Felix Rosel & Nancy
Terrie Hubbard
Tom Hardaway
Lee Berlad
Bobbie Frick

Ed Bennett & Becky
Tina McKee Snover & Jim
Julia Daniels
Stephanie Duncan-Peters
Pat Lagerberg
Pat Royal Nicks & Larry
Karen & Wylie Hawthorne

1971: Lillian Bennett
Gretchen Pence

Peggy Rowland

* in bold are newly found!

Some of us arrived on Thursday evening and went to the bar, had drinks, and then went out to dinner. Thereafter we proceeded to the hotel to continue partying. The people who arrived by Friday evening had dinner out on the River Walk. We were such a large group we broke up into two groups to have dinner, and met back later at the hotel (Holiday Inn Riverwalk) to begin the reunion in full swing in the hospitality suite, which was well supplied, thanks to Lennie and Stuart Knowlton.

More people arrived by Saturday night, and the laughing and carrying on continued . . . We all enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner, and began dancing to the music the DJ played until midnight.

Many took in the sights in and around San Antonio, and judging from the mood, everyone was in full swing enjoying this great town throughout the weekend. Phil Bepko then played his guitar in the hospitality suite, and the nostalgia of who we once were became quite real. What a talent you are, Phil! Thanks for the great entertainment. Again, it was 3:30 a.m. when the hospitality suite was closed down.

Sunday proved to be most amusing, as a professional photographer **tried** to take pictures of all of us (we were absolutely at our best--you'll see!). The idea was to take two photos: one "serious" and one funny. To give you a hint: The Classes of '47 - '65 were represented by empty chairs--we missed you! (their serious photo was better than the funny one . . .) The Class of '66 was represented by Bobby Bepko, who tried to be quite serious - it never worked. We were all laughing too hard. '67, '68, '69, '70 and '71 had a most difficult time being serious, and truthfully we didn't care, because we were having too much fun. By the time we came back into the dining room, all our tables were cleared and the music rolled--the dancing didn't cease until 12:30 a.m., ending with "Shout." There wasn't a soul left off the dance floor. The music was great, even with those attempting the Cotton-eyed Joe or the Bird Dance. Anyway, watching Steve Bari, Felix Rosel and Bob Bolick in their Lettermen's jackets dancing on the floor Saturday evening was a sight to behold. It was as if we never moved forward in time. If you are wondering about some of the funny situations, the following anecdotes might suggest some insightful hints:

1. Who found a surprise at dinner?
2. Who doesn't know the difference between chocolate and condoms? (they're both for dessert)
3. How many men are dating women 20 years younger?
4. Who played guitar all night?
5. Who only wore half a dress both nights?
6. Who closed down the Hospitality Suite three nights in a row?
7. Who's still married after 22 years?
8. Who came to dinner Saturday night holding hands?
9. What three guys danced together in their Lettermen's jackets?
10. Whose fly was open, was reminded of it, and then wanted to know "How long have you been looking?" [long enough . . .]

11. Who had the Class of '69 on her lap?
12. Who left with someone else's wife?
13. Who's into lace and feathers?
14. Who said, "Who is ready for safe sex?"
15. What poor hen had to lay 8 eggs to serve someone Eggs Benedict?
16. Who brought a very "punny" guy as a guest?
17. Who's the authority on bonding--or bondage?
18. True or False: The men were no better at asking the women to dance than they were in Junior High [Hint: TRUE!!]
19. Who needs a man to put on her panty hose? . . . just stretch it.
20. When they tell you to line up for pictures, do they mean horizontally or vertically? Maybe we could get consultation from a plumber . . .

The reunion plans for 1991 were to include Las Vegas as an all-classes reunion but, due to planning problems, it will have to be held off until at least 1992. Peggy Rowland '71 is organizing our '91 reunion and will have more details. It will be in June, when most people are out of school. We hope to see everyone from all **classes of '67 - '71**. Please be sure to respond ASAP to Peggy's flyer in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing everyone. Be sure to contact your class reps whenever you need to.

A very special thanks to Ed Bennett '70 and his wife Becky for hosting the reunion in San Antonio, as well as to Stuart and Lennie Morris Knowlton, who worked very hard the entire year to get the hotel and Hospitality Suite ready for the reunion, and provided most of the food. It was great to see all of you who came. If you have any news to share with us and would want us to communicate it, please contact any one of us listed in the front of your Directory.

Love & Best Wishes to you all,

Gayle Spear Cratty

MINUTES OF THE 1990 BUSINESS MEETING

[Submitted by Secretary Lennie Morris Knowlton]

The Frankfurt American High School Alumni Association, "FHS Bald Eagles", Classes of 1967 - 1971, held their annual business meeting in San Antonio, Texas, 27 May 1990.

Nomination and Election of Officers:

President	Gayle Spear Cratty '69
Vice President	Peter van Witt '69
Secretary	Lennie Morris Knowlton '67
Treasurer	Gaye Crosby Smith '69

Class Representatives:

1967	Lennie Morris Knowlton Phil Bepko
1968	Stuart Knowlton Bob Samborski Bob Taylor Don Ayers
1969	Gayle Spear Cratty Gaye Crosby Smith Krys Wages Bob Mathison
1970	Ed Bennett
1971	Peggy Rowland Lillian Bennett

New Business:

A discussion took place regarding the benefits of being incorporated. Peter van Witt is looking into this.

1991 Class Reunion would be held in Las Vegas with all classes involved. A suggestion of Henninger Beer served was mentioned. Flyers will go out regarding the reunion. Send any requests for songs to Peggy Rowland.

A question was asked as to when these reunions should be held; the time of year that is most convenient to have the biggest turnout.

Dues - what are we paying for? This covers newsletters, flyers, directories, printing and postage. For the period covering the inception of our Chapter (May 1989) to present, these items came to approximately \$1,200. \$1,300 in dues was received from 65 people. Members need to get their dues in early. Anyone wishing to see an itemized list of expenditures should contact Gaye Crosby Smith. Treasurer's Report is published at least once a year in the newsletter.

Each new member receives a packet explaining the Alumni Association. A suggestion was made that people send in articles for the Newsletter. Also, "bio's" were requested for the Class of 1970. Class Representatives are reimbursed for phone calls. All copies of receipts must be submitted to the Treasurer.

Everyone will be kept informed of reunions and all other pertinent items, but people need to realize that they must get their reservations in early. For us to commit to hotels, dinners, entertainment, etc., we need to have as accurate a head count as early as possible.

It was voted that NAME TAGS at these reunions are a must.

Bob Edwards is looking in to group rates/airline tickets.

It was suggested and mutually agreed upon to plan a reunion in Frankfurt, Germany possibly for 1992. Bob Edwards, who is a pilot, will check in to chartering a plane.

Reunions in general: It was brought up that there is not necessarily a need to hold these reunions every year. People will be polled to get their feeling on this, as well as to determine why there was not an overwhelming attendance at the reunion in San Antonio.

* MEETING ADJOURNED *

ANNOUNCING OUR 1991 REUNION!

The 1991 reunion will be held in San Diego, California, from Friday, 21 June through Sunday, 23 June. Peggy Rowland '71 is already working diligently on this reunion. To help her in the planning stage, there is a questionnaire in the back of this newsletter that will give her a better idea of how many people she can expect to come. Filling out this questionnaire is not a commitment to come at this time. If you want to come but aren't sure of the timing right now, just indicate that on the form. We need an accurate response to be able to negotiate with hotels. Peggy will keep us informed of place and itinerary as reunion time gets closer.

CHANGES AT FRANKFURT HIGH

It's always fun to hear about all the changes that have occurred at our Alma Mater, and Peggy Rowland '71 has listed some of those for us:

- * The school has a new addition, so our old exit, which led outside, no longer exists as the new building is attached to it.
- * There is also a new auditorium and new gymnasium.
- * Seven classes per day are held, and Grades 9 through 12 now attend Frankfurt High.
- * The dorm is gone! It is now used for handicapped students.
- * There are elevators in the school for handicapped use only, as well as rest rooms for the handicapped only.
- * A smoking section is outside.
- * The Annex still exists, but "Silver City" is gone.
- * The last principal threw all our trophies in the Senior Lobby away. Mr. Martin was able to retrieve some of them, including the flag presented by the Class of '68. This will be flown again.
- * The Eagle that used to hang outside FHS will also be re-hung.
- * The Teen Club is now a nursery.

- * The "Eagle's Landing" has been built next to the Idle Hour Theatre in lieu of our Eagle's Nest.
- * The park is off limits and has become extremely dangerous.
- * Guards have been placed around the school due to terrorism.
- * Kids on the busses must show I.D. or will get thrown off.
- * The I.G. Farben Building (now called the General Abrams Building) has been bombed four times, so there are gates all around the building to keep out unauthorized personnel.

We still have quite a few alumni and faculty in the Frankfurt area. If you have more changes or other news of interest to add, please let us know!

SO WHY PAY DUES ? ? ?

First of all, approximately 75 of you have paid dues for 1990, and deserve a big **Thank You!** You represent almost 20% of us and, along with a number of wonderful donations, are essentially paying for the other 80% of our members. It costs approximately \$300 to print and mail one newsletter, and we'd like to be able to send out three a year. We also print a Directory of the names, addresses and phone numbers of Classes '65 through '73, which we send out upon payment of dues to help lower our costs. This directory is updated each 6 months, and a copy of the additions and changes is sent to dues-paying members. We send out Welcome Packets to any newly-found alumni. This includes a letter explaining our alumni association, list of Class Representatives, our last newsletter if we still have copies and, of course, a Dues Form! We actively network with the other chapters of the FHS Alumni Association, forwarding new names of people given to us that are out of our era to the Master Database and receiving those of our class years. We also network with Overseas Brats. Frankly, to date the class reps have been absorbing the cost of postage and phone calls, which can be considerable. It's a labor of love for us, but those who can't afford this expense should be reimbursed. Just in case you've misplaced your dues form, one has thoughtfully been included with this newsletter.

* * * THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS * * *

Gayle Spear '69	Joye Crosby '70	Mary Falvey '71
Mary Johnson '71	Bill Brooks '69	Pat Hardman '69
Peter van Witt '69	Caren Rasmussen '68	Pat Kelley '69
Dan Weatherly '68	Kathleen Grosscup '68	Jack Trost '67
Rosemary Patterson '67	John C. Smith '67	Pat Royal '70
Bob Bolick '69	Carol Waara '71	Gaye Crosby '69
Deane Harimoto '69	Lillian Bennett '71	Krys Wages '69
Monica Olson '69	Gretchen Pence '71	Greg Brown '69

REUNION SHORTFALL FUND TO BE ESTABLISHED

One problem we've encountered with our reunion planners having to personally bankroll reunions is that there is the possibility that someone will actually lose money after all the bills have been paid. It is extremely difficult to gauge costs when less people than expected show up, and unfortunately there was a \$200.00 shortfall at the San Antonio reunion. We'd like to be able to repay this amount, but felt it wasn't right to take it out of the Alumni Association funds, as only 50 or so of us had the pleasure of attending the reunion. What we thought would be the best solution is to establish a special fund that members can knowingly contribute to, if they so desire, to help out. If you have already sent in a donation and would like to earmark a portion of it to this Fund, please let Gaye Crosby Smith know. If you were one of the 50 of us who had a **great time** at this reunion, won't you please take a moment to send in a small donation? Any money left over or received in the future will stay in this fund to help out future reunions. **Thank you!**

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Duke Taylor '68** and his wife on the birth of their baby girl. We're thrilled for you!

Our sincere condolences to **Peggy Rowland '71** on the loss of her father.

Jennifer Cratty (3 1/2), daughter of **Tom & Gayle Spear Cratty '69**, underwent extensive surgery June 22 and is recovering nicely.

Most of you remember **Hal Mecham**, our Drama teacher and the intrepid Faculty Advisor for the Senior Class of 1969. His long-time friend, **Virginia McCormick**, called many of the people in his address book to tell us of his death on May 11, 1990 in San Francisco. She said he had chronic bronchitis when he returned to California in 1977, but continued to smoke until 1983, when he was hospitalized for a week with the addition of chronic emphysema and asthma. Since then his activity was badly curtailed, although he continued to teach part-time at a Community College in the area until a week before his death. Virginia has sent **Joye Crosby Brooks** a scrapbook with pictures from his days at Frankfurt High and some other mementos, and wrote: "Hal remained fiercely loyal to all his Frankfurt students." Joye promises to bring everything to the next reunion.

Bob Taylor '68 underwent major surgery at Georgetown University Medical Center this June and is recovering beautifully at home. FHS Alumni sent balloons to Bob at the hospital, and he thanks everyone. A speedy recovery to you!

Bill Brooks '69 and **Joye Crosby Brooks '70**, our Directory and Database keepers, are in the process of a big move! Bill has a new job in Austin, Texas with Planergy (a planning and energy group). They're in a duplex at the moment, and are looking forward to moving in to their brand new home as soon as it gets built. SOOO, if we're a bit slow to get directories and the updated addition out, please forgive the delay! We'll publish their new address and phone number as soon as they're settled in, hopefully by the end of October.

Gretchen Pence Shires '71 evidently didn't get enough visiting done at our reunion--she recently returned from a trip to California, where she got to see **Bobbie Thacker '69** and **Steve Bari '69** again. Gretchen attended the University of Tampa, receiving a BS in Science there in 1975. She taught high school in North Carolina from 1975 - 78 before moving back to Tampa, where she worked as a Recreational Therapist. Gretchen married Dana L. Shires, MD in 1979 and got 8 step-children in the process! (Is that doing it the easy way or the hard way???)

John Neumyer '69 was ecstatic to be found this past April. He's an architect with the Corps of Engineers in the Sacramento District and has discovered that **Gail ImObersteg '68** works right across the street from him! John is very serious about photography and has an offer for us: if anyone has old photos/snapshots of their Frankfurt days that they would like to share but have not done so because of fear of damage or loss, John will copy the photos (color prints, black and white prints or slides, it doesn't matter) onto black and white photographic paper at cost. Write to John at: 2815 Sandbrook Court, Sacramento, CA 95826, or call him [home: (916-) 383-6536, office: (916-) 551-2028].

Another recently surfaced alumnus is **Greg Brown '69**. Talk about small worlds! Greg works for GM in Lansing, Michigan, and comes out to the GM Testing Facility in Manitou Springs, Colorado each year to test brakes. (Evidently GM figures if you can get down Pikes Peak without burning up your brakes, you've got it made.) He was here in Colorado on business, called home and was told he had a package from Manitou Springs--only it wasn't from GM, it was a Welcome Packet from our FHS Alumni Association . . . We didn't really know each other in high school (even though we were both there all three years) but the great thing is, it just doesn't matter. Greg was voted "Best Personality" in our Senior year, and he still gets MY vote!

Other newly-found alumni are: **Jane Collier '70**, **Ken Collier '69**, **Paige Arnold '70**, **James Ehrhardt '67**, **Mandy Godfrey '67**, **John Godfrey '69**, **Bill Fritz '70**, **Claudia Cable '67**, **Elizabeth Powers '67**, **Arthur Sites '67**, **Bill Nelson '69**, **Bill Ratcliff '69**, **Richard Bowman '70**, **Bruce Kimbel '70**, **David Kimbel '71**, **Evelyn Rosenberg '70**, as well as the alumni attending the San Antonio reunion whose names are in bold type. Welcome! Our list may be sketchy due to Joye & Bill's move. Contact me if you'd like to get in touch with any of them!

NEWS FROM OTHER FRANKFURT HIGH ALUMNI

Dick Person '53 organizes the "Early Years", Frankfurt High Classes of 1946 - 1954. This group never attended school in our "new" building--the first class to have that honor was the Class of 1955. The Early Years really have their act together. They plan to hold reunions on odd years, second weekend in June, in Reno. ALWAYS. Sure saves discussion time on where, when and how . . .

Bruce Jones '60 put together a wonderful newsletter for his class to celebrate it's big 30th. Included was a commencement program (graduation held at the Zoo!) and a copy of the front page of the "farewell issue" of the Eagles Echo. Bruce attended Stuttgart High from 1957 - 59 before transferring to Frankfurt for his Senior year. He is a former Army officer and Vietnam veteran, and a professional writer and lecturer. His book "War Without Windows" (Vanguard/Random House) will be available soon in paperback. It concerns the failure of US military intelligence to detect the massive 1968 Tet Offensive. He is currently co-authoring "Overseas Brats - Children of the Cold War" with Overseas Brats publisher and editor, Joe Condrill (International School of Bangkok 1970 - 72, Tehran '73).

Allen Monasmith '61 has been absolutely indispensable as the master database for all alumni of Frankfurt High School. He has an excellent directory available that covers all years, and breaks alumni out by class year and by State. The cost is \$10.00, and anyone interested in obtaining this can write to him at: 2097 Starling Way, Fairfield, CA 94533, or call (707-)428-6610. This service is especially useful for alumni whose classes have not yet organized.

The Classes of 1964 - 1966 held their annual reunion in Chicago this June. I was there, and was made to feel very welcome. It was a great chance to get to meet several people we'd been networking with, especially **Sue Harlan Alley '65**. On Friday night we were all bussed to a wonderful German restaurant, Zum Deutschen Eck. The turn-out had to have been phenomenal, as it took three school busses to get everyone there. Saturday night was the big dance, which lasted from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. Who says you still can't rock after 40. These guys made us look like pansies. I had to dance all night just to be sure our reputations remained intact!

One really neat thing this group made available at their reunion was lots of FHS souvenirs, such as ceramic mugs, T-shirts and buttons. They were selling briskly, too! I know we have members of our group who can provide this sort of service. If you are interested, why not give Peggy Rowland a call and see if we can't come up with something for our next reunion, too.

As for business, the 1964 - 66 group agreed in concept with the idea of an all-classes reunion, but felt that since the larger "all-classes" group did not yet have a reunion committee in place,

and it didn't look like they were going to get one in a timely manner, they would hold their next "business meeting" in Nashville in 1991. All of us are looking toward 1992 as a possible goal for the all-classes reunion. **Bruce Jones '60** and I have sent a letter to key personnel of each class or Chapter regarding coordination and planning of the reunion, along with a questionnaire. More in the next newsletter!

Meredith Turner Kellogg '72 has written to her classmates regarding the 1992 reunion and is getting a good response. Many are also expressing an interest in having a reunion in Frankfurt, which is something also discussed by our group and the Classes of '64 - '66. This is obviously something that not everyone would be able to afford or work in with a tight schedule (I don't see it as being just a quick weekend trip!), but if all the FHS classes worked together, perhaps a large enough group would be formed to make it viable. Sounds like **another** questionnaire for the next newsletter!

"OVERSEAS BRATS" GATHERING PLANNED FOR SAN ANTONIO

Overseas Brats has announced its annual "Gathering", to be held in San Antonio from Thursday, 18 October through Sunday, 21 October. These gatherings are a combination workshop/seminar/exhibit, with specially created mini-courses. Offered this year are courses on getting involved with your alumni group, finding lost friends, starting an alumni group, planning reunions, keeping the momentum going in your group, and learning to network with the other overseas alumni associations to find all our lost alumni.

I attended the Overseas Brats Gathering in Denver last October with fellow FHS'ers **Bruce Jones '60, Vicki Rottman '64, and Pat Stegall '68**. The sessions were extremely informative, given by alumni from other groups who've been through this whole experience. The contacts I've made have proved invaluable, and I am convinced the Overseas Brats Volunteer Rep Network we've put into operation will be instrumental in finding all those lost Brats.

For more information on the Gathering, please write to Joe Condrill, "Overseas Brats", P.O. Box 29805, San Antonio, TX 78229. If you'd like to become involved with the Volunteer Rep Network or would like more information regarding it, please give me a call [Gaye Crosby Smith, (719-) 685-1217]. Some of the things we do as Reps are things you can do as an individual: Put notices on bulletin boards at colleges, libraries, supermarkets, laundromats, work, other offices. Place ads or announcements in bulletins, church newsletters, newspapers. Contact the Public Relations Office of nearby military installations to see how you can spread the news there. Get in touch with area culture clubs (German/American clubs, etc.). Join **Overseas Brats** so you have a better idea of what this coalition of over 100 overseas American high schools is all about!