

# The BALD EAGLES ECHO

a publication of the  
Frankfurt American High School  
Alumni Association  
Classes of 1967 - 1971

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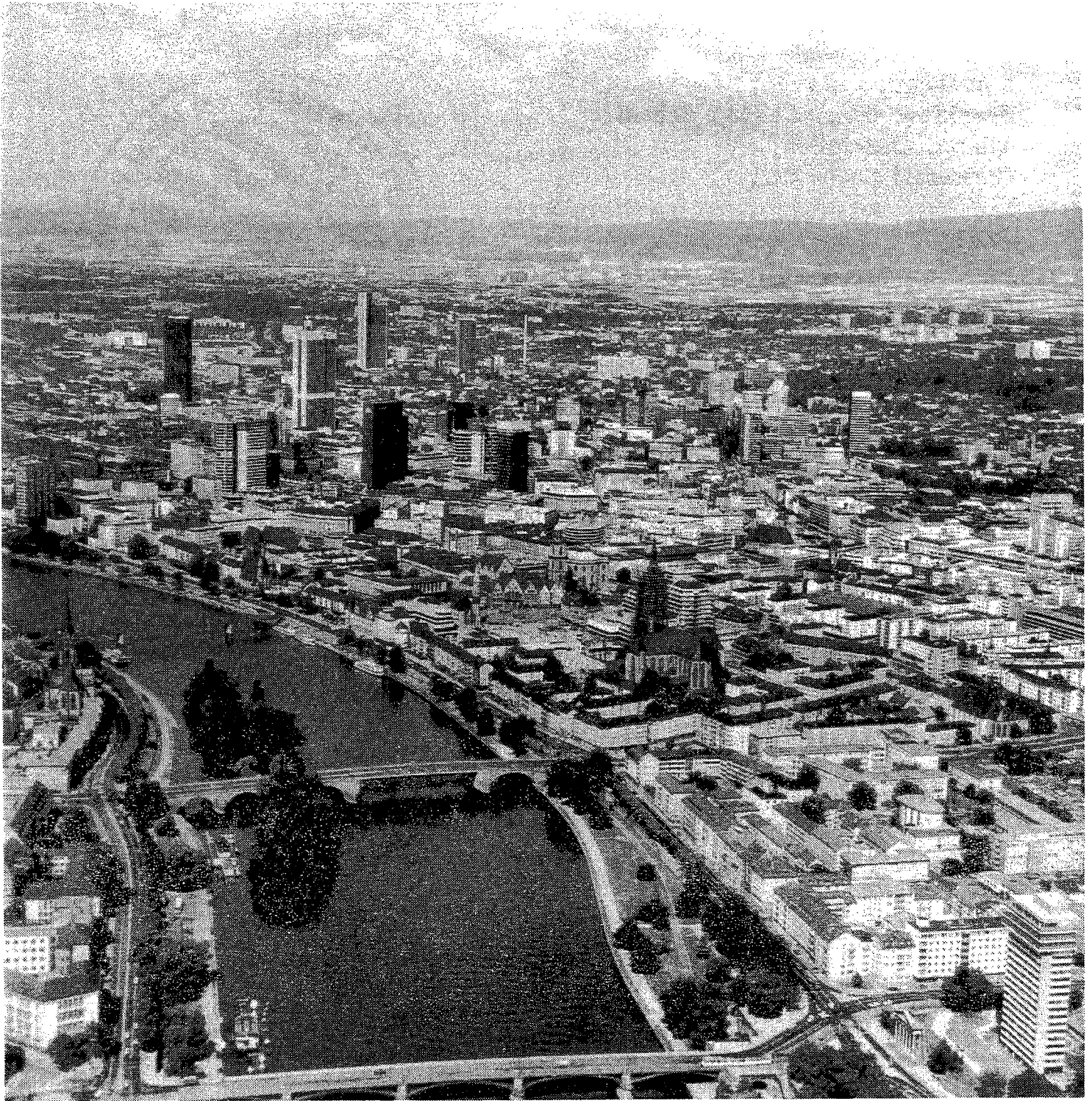
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## **FRANKFURT am MAIN**

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Gutleutstrasse 7-9, 6000 Frankfurt a.M. 1*

# BALD EAGLES ECHO

Publication of the Frankfurt American High School Alumni Association  
Editor: Gaye Crosby Smith

Classes of 1967-1971  
Fall 1995

## Erinnerungen '95: The Closing of Frankfurt High

by Gayle Spear Cratty '69

**E**rinnerungen '95 was an event which was very nostalgic for all who attended! The trip began with the arrival for most of us at the Frankfurt International Airport. On May 13th, the day I arrived with Tom and my two children, Jason and Jennifer, it was drizzling. My comment to Tom was I feel right at home, this is how I often remembered Germany. We then proceeded to rent our car and drive to the Intercontinental Hotel which my sister, Leslie Spear '67, so graciously arranged for us. I couldn't believe I remembered how to get downtown from the airport.

The week began with a reunion on the High School field of more than 350 people in attendance. It was exciting to see so many new and old faces, as well as revisiting our old stomping grounds at the school. As Krys Wages lamented, "Have you read the letters in the main entrance of the school from those students who graduated?" My reply was a meek "no", because I knew that it was something I did not want to read, knowing it would really evoke some kind of emotion. Krys was in tears, and I was very close behind her as I could only imagine how I would have felt if in our last year we were being told our school would be gone . . . After 26 years, we are detached from the very essence of those ripe feelings. Somewhat because of our lives having taken on so many different dimensions, but for those young people just starting to find their way in life, their school and all that is associated with the experiences rendered through time is what consumes them . . . it is an emotional time! The nostalgia of the experiences each of us holds so close

to our hearts and the impact each of us made on others while "diplomats in a foreign country" was certainly a topic of conversation with all of us.



**Alumni Gather at Frankfurt High**  
Greg Zurich, Kathy Cooney, Don Ayers, Bob Taylor, Leslie Spear, Carol Greer and others say farewell  
(photo by Peggy Rowland '71)

Leslie put together an agenda of what went on during our stay, arranged for us to eat at the restaurants, made all the accommodations, provided food for the hospitality suite, and simply was a friend to all! She truly did a magnificent job. Thank you so much, Leslie, for such a memorable time. Mike Jernigan, Bob Taylor, Patricia Ketchum, Carol Greer and Greg Zurich sent a plaque to Leslie on behalf of all of us who attended the reunion which "Thanks her for a job well done" (in fact, the same

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type she presented to me at the school field--thank you again.)

## **Sunday, May 14:**

Before the reunion began, I introduced my family to sites near and dear to my heart. We drove to the high school and stopped at the football field. As I got out of the car, the tears began to flow down my cheeks as the flood of so many memories engulfed me. I was fine after that, because my family brought me back to the reality of things. We then left to visit one of the places where I grew up as a "civilian brat" and saw the old elementary school in Platenstrasse. Visiting Platenstrasse and the elementary school for me was like visiting a ghost town. No one dwells in that housing area any longer. No wonder, with 30,000 troops having left Frankfurt alone, the place would be empty. At one point, I saw a couple climbing over a balcony. I waved to them, thinking they were with us from the reunion (it was a wrong assumption and besides we would never dream of climbing on a balcony to peer through a window . . . ). They were Germans soon to be invading our housing complex. Talk about Erinnerungen . . . At the end of December, Platenstrasse will house German families who are bidding on various apartments. The apartments are being renovated to a 1995 standard vs. a 1950's standard.



**Reunion Tent Set up on FHS Football Field  
(photo by Mike Jernigan '68)**

We then went to Bologna's and enjoyed a wonderful dinner. The children think Bologna's makes the best pizza in the world. We then went back to the hotel and met up with many classmates, of whom I've listed below, and went to a Bierstube at the Intercontinental to eat.

Tom & Gayle Spear Cratty  
Ricki Nelson Menard  
Mike Jernigan  
Bob & Joan Edwards  
Kathy Cooney  
Krys Wages  
Peter van Witt  
Linda Reese duKor  
Suzy Pennington  
Bruce Garner  
George & Janice Bain Peacher  
Pattie Redmond & Allison  
Mona Armstrong-Bey Jacobs  
Annie Regan Iselin  
Evelyn Clarke Ulsenheimer  
Dennis & Milica Howard  
Chad Turner  
Shiela Jones  
Paul Patrick  
Sarah Lopez

Leslie Spear  
Joan Reed Romig  
Carol Greer  
Jim Kadlec  
Ginny Cooney  
Debbie Wages Hankel  
Don Ayers  
Ray Reese  
Monica Olson  
Michael Pawlowski  
Dottie Redmond  
Ron & Mary Bourgeois  
Peggy Rowland-Sanchez  
Mary Regan  
Sylvia Conk  
Ayhan Duman  
Jerry Smith  
Keith Jones  
Dave Howard  
Nils & Pamela Ohberg

Jim Diehl  
Walter Alvin  
Mark & Nadine Petry  
Barbara Beckwith  
Kathy Matlock  
Bob Taylor  
Patsy Ketchum  
Ted Schindler  
Mike Major  
Dave Bach  
Lewis Bach  
Greg Zurich  
Kathy Garner  
Susie Warren  
John McBee  
Linda Hebbe  
Kevin Jones  
Steven Jedlicki  
Yvonne Liddell

**Monday, May 15th: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Everyone met on the football field behind the Frankfurt American High School. Bratwurst, Rindswurst, hot dogs, soft drinks, beer and ice cream were available. Many of us reacquainted ourselves with the school and spoke to teachers preparing to be transferred. One English teacher told us how upset she was at the thought of so many new books being disposed of by the Army. She chose to box many and ship them to prisons and places where she knew there was a need.

An awards ceremony was held on the football field with the High School ROTC Color Guard performing. Thereafter, Lt. Col. Steven B. Henry, 418th Base Support Battalion Commander, spoke in memory of our deceased alumni members. A bugler, a member of the FAHS band, played Taps.

Leslie Spear presented awards to several people who helped to make a difference in the plans of the reunion. What a thoughtful gesture.

Until 5:00 p.m. everyone stayed on the field talking, taking pictures, and reminiscing. All of us then went to Bologna's for dinner. The owner was quite happy to have us there and was very honored that we selected his restaurant in which to have our reunion.



**Gayle & Tom with Krys and Debbie**  
(photo by Peggy Rowland-Sanchez '71)

After dinner, we all headed back to the High School for a 50's - 60's sock hop with DJ Smokey Trash. Leslie was able to get the beer truck to come back to the Gym and there were quite a few people who decided to hitch a ride back to the Intercontinental Hotel via the TRUCK! Isn't this a natural! We love you! At the hotel we sat around talking until wee hours in the morning.

**Tuesday, May 16th: 10:30 a.m.**

An Awards ceremony was held in the Kaisers Saal in the Römer (City Hall) where Charlemagne was crowned Emperor. Mike Wetterer '56 presented the City of Frankfurt with an award on behalf of the Americans who

lived and studied in Frankfurt. Commemorating 50 years, he and Dr. Albrecht Magen, President of the Steuben-Schurz Gesellschaft (an influential German officers club), also spoke of the diplomatic ties which have over the past 50 years been so prevalent in Frankfurt.



**Mike Wetterer '56 (right) with Dr. Magen (center)**  
**at Römer Ceremony**  
(photo by Peggy Rowland-Sanchez '71)

Dr. Magen expressed the hope that we would continue to be "diplomats" in our country relative to our positive experiences gained from having lived in Germany. He said the Germans had gained tremendously from the American association over 50 years, and we certainly can agree. I believe all of us, on both sides, have gained from the experience. The plaque presented to the Germans was that of a German and American eagle.

Thereafter, many of us boarded the Applewoi Express near the Römer, which tours the city and Sachsenhausen. It was quite hot as we all gathered on this old Streetcar, which looks in decor like something from the 60's. Many went off on their own until dinner time, when we planned to dine in Sachsenhausen at a local restaurant, Dauth Schneider's. Everyone enjoyed a quick and delicious dinner. Afterward, people split up to visit the town or go back to the hotel and socialize.

**Wednesday, May 17th**

This day saw many depart Frankfurt to return stateside or to continue with their travels. Some of us, including my family, Krys Wages and her sister, Mike Jernigan and Evelyn Clarke Ulsenheimer, went to Heidelberg to tour the area. What a quaint and beautiful town, with all its charm as I remembered.

We returned to Frankfurt in the early evening to meet up with our remaining classmates for dinner in

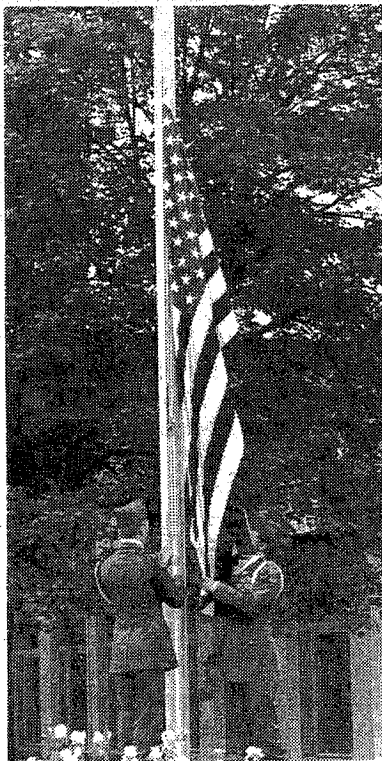


Sachsenhausen at the Graue Bock. It was a fun evening, and continued quite late into the night at the Intercontinental afterwards.

#### Thursday, May 18th:

Our last day in Frankfurt saw many of us heading to FHS for a closing ceremony. At the flag pole, many of us witnessed the lowering of the American flag with closing speeches by Ed Siemaszko, Principal, Alice Sax, Counselor (who originally came from the Bronxville area where we live), and the Student Council president.

There were many tears shed as we bid our farewells. We do know the experiences we gained from all this will never die. Our reunions continue to provide those lasting memories.



JROTC members remove flag outside the High School during closing ceremonies May 18  
(photo by Mike Jernigan '68)

Our trip continued to Munich

to visit friends and so many sights. Those of you who did not attend, we missed you! To all of you who sent me letters or forwarded news articles to me, many thanks! Please forgive me if I did not get around to writing all of you, but time has not been my own these past months since returning from Germany.

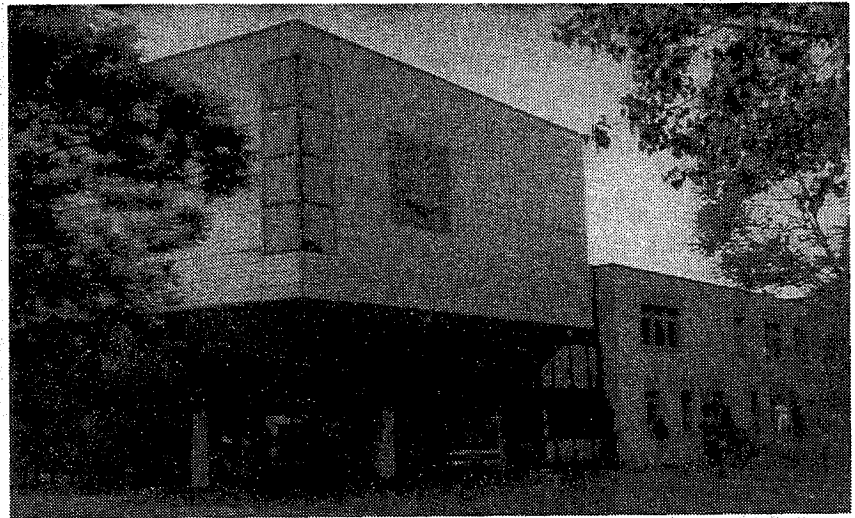
Thank you, Walter, for spoiling my children! Greg, my daughter has fallen in love with you--she wanted to call you, so don't be surprised. Evelyn, thank you also for your kindness toward Jason and Jennifer.

What a privilege to be able to witness such an event as the closing of our alma mater. But, on a positive note, FHS will remain a school.

We look forward to our next reunion in Seattle, Washington. Hope you are all there! Thank you, Dana Cox and Janet Worthington, for your commitment in organizing our next event. It is greatly appreciated. And thank you, Gaye and John Neumyer, for all your hard work in putting this special newsletter together.

Tschüss oder Auf Wiedersehen!

-- Gayle



Frankfurt American High School, May 1995  
(photo by Peggy Rowland-Sanchez '71)

#### FAREWELL TO FRANKFURT HIGH

For fifty years, the time has passed for we who loved her so  
A swan song for our school is sung, her time, alas, to go  
Such different lives, we all have led, our paths have crossed again  
a sweet goodbye to decades past, to time, to thoughts, to friends.  
I still remember happy hours with those who joined me there  
and friendships now, I forged back then, for those who loved  
and cared.

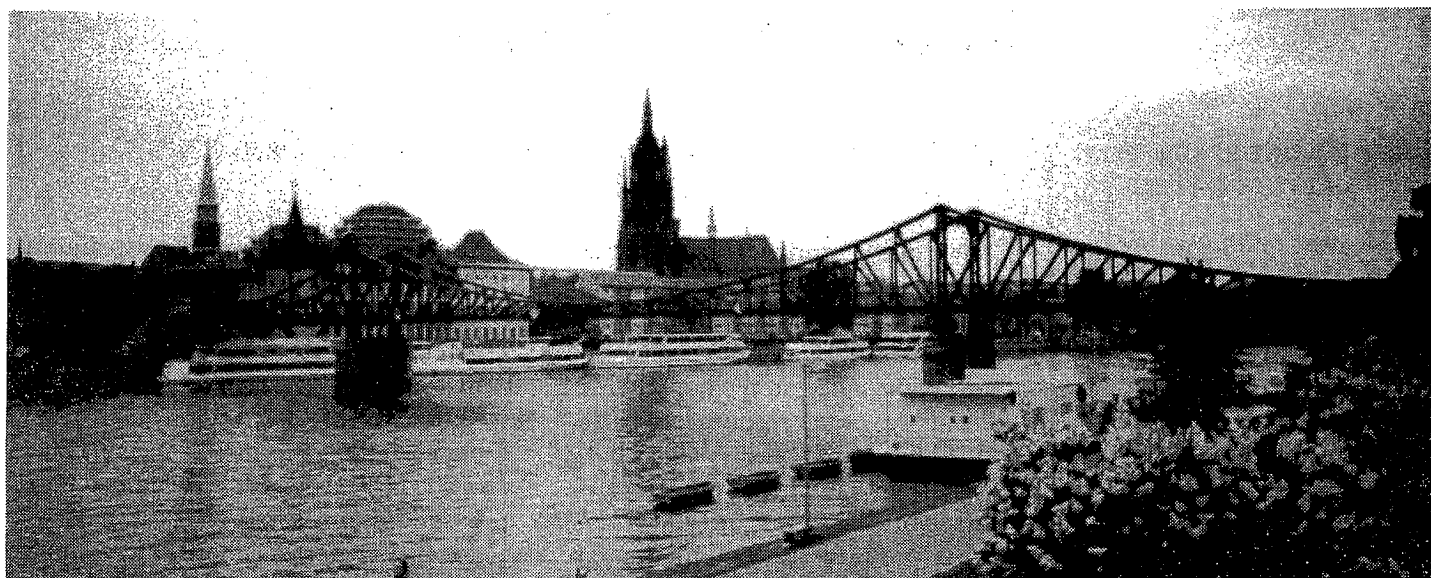
And from her halls came fighting men who died on foreign shores  
and healers, teachers, diplomats, that opened many doors.  
So many came, so many left, She saw them all it seems,  
but when they went, their hopes were high, to reach beyond  
their dreams.

As I reflect on times gone by I often wonder still,  
was I so young, so full of hope, so strong of force and will?  
As this grand lady, laid to rest, might fade in memory,  
to all of us, who love her still, her light shines constantly.

I will miss those carefree days, I spent with her back then  
and in my thoughts, She'll be alive, a worthy, trusted friend.  
It's not so much the buildings there, or classrooms that I see  
what I shall miss, are memories, that now are dear to me.

And some with sadness, some with pain, and some with teary eye  
it matters not, where we might be, we'll all miss Frankfurt High.

Billy D. Cox '70



Frankfurt am Main: Church of St. Bartholomew and Eiserner Steg  
(photo by Erica "Ricki" Nelson Menard '71)

"The Frankfurt reunion was the best!" -- Kathy Cooney '67

28 May 1995

Sure enjoyed the Frankfurt reunion! It was great seeing so many friends & familiar places. Getting to know "Mr. Martin" at the final dinner was an unexpected treat. Thanks to Leslie Spear for organizing the dinner.

-- Jim Diehl '70

14 June 1995

We all had a wonderful time (at the Frankfurt reunion). It was a time filled with emotion. I'll never forget the day we all stood around the school, that rainy Thursday on May 18th, and watched the flag being lowered for the last time. I felt a part of me being ripped and torn apart. At times I felt as if I were a character in a "Twilight Zone" script as I looked around at people whom I had gone to school with 23 years ago, now gathered together for that last farewell.

As Gayle and I embraced, I'll never forget her words, "thank God for our reunions where we know we will see each other again, and share memories of FHS." It may have been a final closing, but for us FAHS will live on.

I was so thrilled to be able to see Dave Howard (*Paper Sunn* '69) again. We were such great friends back then, and not until now did our paths ever cross. My husband and I went to see him play about a week after the reunion, at a small concert in the town he lived in when he went to FHS. I have everything on video, which I will be sending Gayle.

We also got to spend a nice evening with Steve Jedlicki and his wife, Doris. Leslie Spear did a great job on getting us all together (our group) at places she booked in advance. I really could go on writing a book about those

four days! Hopefully we will see each other in Seattle next year.

-- Peggy Rowland-Sanchez '71

*Thanks so much for the reunion report, Peggy! And go ahead and write that "book"--those of us that weren't able to make it would love to hear more. Thanks also for sending the reunion pictures for this newsletter. ♥ Gaye*

12 July

Couldn't believe how much Frankfurt had changed. Enjoyed being back, wish it could have been longer. Stayed in Frankfurt Saturday through Tuesday and left Wednesday morning for Heidelberg and Munich. Flew out of Frankfurt on Saturday (a week was way too short). My children enjoyed themselves. They enjoyed meeting Jim Diehl, Don Ayers and Mike Jernigan. They especially likes Mike's "mooning" at the FHS football field during the reunion activities!!

Many old hang-outs (*are you still talking about Mike??*) were the same, but it was depressing seeing the housing areas, which were virtual ghost towns. It was a "bittersweet" reunion. I'm enclosing some photos and an article that appeared in *The Stars & Stripes*. Also, an order form for letter jackets. Thought maybe it could be included in the next newsletter.

Have you heard of any dates for the 1996 reunion yet?

-- Ricki Nelson Menard '71

*The Seattle reunion will be the 3rd weekend in July 1996. See the Seattle article on Page 19. Also, there is a questionnaire we hope anyone considering going to the reunion will fill out. The Spring newsletter will cover reunion plans in detail!*

## News from Frankfurt

### Army's departure from Frankfurt complete

*from the Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegraph news services, 25 May 1995:*

The potted trees in the glass-enclosed Eisenhower Rotunda are dying. No one has watered them for months, and the long, marble hallways are empty at the C.W. Abrams building in Frankfurt, Germany, home of the U.S. Army's V Corps for 50 years.

The transfer of ownership of the building was completed Wednesday, marking the final departure of the American army from Frankfurt.

Ramando Enriquez, a U.S. Army base-closure specialist, gave a handful of keys to Bernhard Moeller, a representative of the German government's property office, explained which key unlocked which door, and that was that.

During the Cold War, Frankfurt was home to 40,000 U.S. soldiers, their dependents and civilian employees of the American military. The V Corps moved to Heidelberg last year.

### Engineer Command HQ Moved

John Neumyer read in the Corps of Engineer's in-house magazine that the Europe District "formerly EUD, aka European Division, aka Engineer Command) has moved from Frankfurt's Phillips Building to the Amelia Earhart building (former hotel) in Wiesbaden. The Army's properties in Frankfurt were turned over to the German government on 29 June 1995."

### A 'New' AFN Returns to the Airwaves

The Cold War may be over, but one of its most stalwart soldiers lives on. American Forces Network, the radio service of the U.S. military, was a strong presence on the battlefield of the airwaves in pre-unification, divided Berlin. AFN is no more, but there is still a market for dual-language broadcasting and a new version of AFN is now ready to fill this gap. "Radio Charly," U.S. ambassador to Germany Charles Redman announced in mid-March, is the result of a unique collaboration of private investors and the U.S. development agency USIA. "AFN stands for tradi-

tion and Charly points the way into the future," Redman said. Following in the AFN tradition, Radio Charly will take a large part of its material from the U.S. government broadcaster Voice of America. And in keeping with the government theme, one of the largest private investors in the broadcaster is former U.S. ambassador to Germany Richard Burt. The program will include hourly English-language news broadcasts, talk shows and music. Charly will begin broadcasting in mid-May. ■

Source: Jeanette White

*The Week in Germany—March 24, 1995*

### Army ends Frankfurt era with building's transfer

*(reprint of a Stars & Stripes article contributed by Roy and Diane McCarty)*

by WAYNE V. HALL and ED REAVIS  
Staff writers

FRANKFURT, Germany — A period of U.S. History came to a quiet close Wednesday when the Army turned over the Creighton W. Abrams Building in Frankfurt to Germany.

No ceremony was held to mark the occasion, and no high-ranking dignitaries were on hand to witness the signing of the documents giving control of the multifloored structure—known until 1975 as the I.G. Farben Building—to Germany's Federal Assets Office.

Current talk in the German community is that the building eventually will become part of the city's state-run university, said Dieter Kniese, spokesman for the 418th Base Support Bn.

Frankfurt's Johann von Goethe University wants the property to expand, but an estimated \$319 million, or 450 million mark, price tag has cooled the state of Hessen's ambitions to purchase the property.

The state earmarked about \$117 million, or

166 million marks, for construction of a new building for the university. Neither the city nor the state have accurate figures on what renovating the building would cost. According to a spokesman for the city, estimates range from \$92 million, or 130 million marks, to \$319 million, or 450 marks.

Regardless of who takes possession of the building, its transfer marks the end of 50 years of American presence in the city.

"I'm not sure if it will continue to be called the Abrams Building," said Kniese. "However, it definitely will not be renamed the I.G. Farben Building. The historical burden of that name is too great."

The building was built in 1930 to be the headquarters for the chemical conglomerate that made its fame and fortune with patents on aniline dyes and also developed nerve gases for the Nazis.

The building served as the corporate headquarters of I.G. Farben for 15 years. It was then occupied by U.S. forces as they marched into the city near the end of World War II.



## End of an Era

*Editor's Note: The following articles by George Varga, FHS '74, were published June 13th, 1995 by The San Diego Union-Tribune. Special thanks to George and the Union-Tribune for granting us permission to reprint them.*

### Former high-schoolers at Frankfurt American say final goodbye

*School's out for summer!*

*School's out forever!*

-- "School's Out," Alice Cooper

FRANKFURT, Germany--True to the words of Alice Cooper's 1972 rock anthem, school is indeed out forever, at least for the students of Frankfurt American High School (FAHS).

Until just last year, this was the largest Department of Defense-operated high school for U.S. military dependents in the world. But on May 16, FAHS bid farewell to the class of '95 and, two days later, shut its doors for good.

Credit the end of the Cold War and the subsequent downsizing of the U.S. military in Germany for the demise of the school, which counts retired U.S. Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf and film actress Julianne Moore ("Short Cuts") among the nearly 30,000 who attended classes here between 1946 and last month.

"Even after the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, we had been told Frankfurt would not close 'until the lights went out in Europe,'" recalled Ed Siemaszko, principal of FAHS since mid-1989.

"But the flickering began fairly quickly and we knew by the middle of last year the entire Frankfurt military

community would close down this spring."

Added Marcia Johnson, the superintendent of Frankfurt's four schools for military dependents since 1990: "We thought Frankfurt would be here forever. The teachers always felt they would leave Frankfurt, but now Frankfurt is leaving us."

The decision to close the school did not go unnoticed by the 12-year-old Frankfurt American High School Alumni Association, a loose-knit group of former FAHS students scattered across the United States, Europe and elsewhere.

### "The end of the Cold War never crossed my mind."

Frank Blandin  
class of '56 graduate

The association's members include students who attended classes at the original high school from 1946 to 1954, and at the "new" campus, which operated from 1954 through this year and included a dormitory for 300 students from as far away as Moscow and Bangladesh.

Michael Wetterer, a class of '56 graduate who is now a marketing and sales manager for Burling Instruments in New Jersey, had been planning an FAHS reunion for this summer in New York. Upon learning the school would close, he decided to hold the reunion here on the FAHS campus last month.

And rather than restrict it to graduates from any specific year or years, Wetterer decided to open it to all former students who attended FAHS at any time during the half century it was open.

### Shared memory

The resulting reunion was held here over a three-day period last month. It drew several hundred former FAHS students, including this reporter, who grew up in Frankfurt for 11 years and attended FAHS as a sophomore in 1971 and 1972.

Together, we bid farewell to a school and an era that, as the result of Europe's rapidly changing political landscape, is now no more than a shared memory.

"To be honest, the end of the Cold War never crossed my mind," said class of '56 graduate Frank Blandin, who is retired and lives with his wife in University City.

"What did cross my mind was the end of some memories. Because if we go back to Frankfurt now, the high school will just be another building. There was a reason to go to Frankfurt before; now there isn't. That's what makes me sad."

Even so, the reunion afforded former students an opportunity that the members of the FAHS class of '95 will never have.

The high school, which was once home to more than 2,000 students annually, is scheduled to reopen later this year as a German trade school. All 30 former U.S. military installations in Frankfurt have now officially been turned over to the Germans.

"It's kind of hard, because I know I'll never be able to come back," said 17-year-old honor student Jennifer Spero, who graduated from FAHS last month and will attend Washington, D.C.'s Catholic University. "Whereas you guys came back for this reunion and saw your former teachers and classmates, I won't be able to do that."

Her disappointment notwithstanding, Spero spoke fondly of her time in Frankfurt and at FAHS, the 10th school she had attended in 12 years as the daughter of a U.S. Army sergeant and his accountant wife.

"It helped me to broaden my horizons, gave me advantages many kids don't have and helped me to grow," she said.

## Worldwide alumni

Spero's views were shared by many of the former FAHS students and teachers who attended the three-day reunion, which drew alumni from 36 states and from Rome, Tel Aviv and several cities in Germany and the Netherlands.

"When I came back from Frankfurt in 1959 to finish high school in Kansas, where my family was from, I was changed," recalled Allen Monasmith, a Fairfield mechanical engineer, who in 1984 created a computer data base that now contains the names of 27,600 former FAHS students.

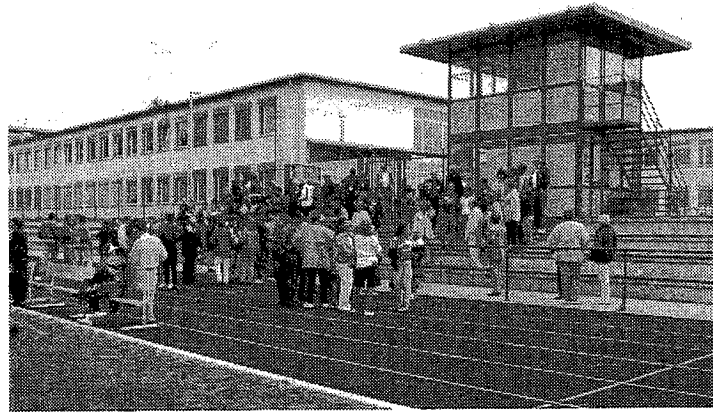
"I would read the paper and relate to the things happening in Europe almost personally, and the kids in Wichita had no concept of how I viewed the world. A lot of us who attended FAHS had known each other previously at various U.S. military bases around the world. We were members of the same 'gang,' and we had a closeness that was almost like a family."

Former humanities teacher Geral Martin, who taught at FAHS since 1964 and acted as the school's unofficial historian, agreed.

"I've always told my students, 'You will never fit in anywhere else because you've had that European and Frankfurt experience,'" Martin said. "A lot of us just don't fit in back in the states, and there are hundreds of students who never left Frankfurt."

Conversely, class of '72 graduate and former FAHS dormitory student Karin

Hazelkorn believes her three years at the school "gave me the ability to fit in anywhere." And fellow '72 graduate David Bach credited his time in Frankfurt with giving him new insight into his American homeland.



Track at Frankfurt American High School, May 1995  
(photo by Kathy Garner '69)

## A rich time

For this reporter, growing up in Frankfurt and attending school here also had a profound impact. The result was such intense culture shock upon returning to the United States in 1972, that--after graduating from high school in 1974--I moved back to Frankfurt to live on my own for 18 months.

At last month's reunion I met a few former classmates and a larger number of former students I had not known previously, who also encountered some difficulties re-adapting to American life after living in Frankfurt.

But, to a person, all agreed they were glad to have had the opportunity to live abroad, and to have attended an American school in the heart of Europe at a time when the dollar was still the world's strongest currency and travel and cultural opportunities were available at bargain rates.

This view was also shared by LeVan Shugart of Palo Alto, who taught science and coached various sports at FAHS from 1947 to 1951.

"Teaching here in Germany was the high point of my career," said Shugart, who recalls former student Norman Schwarzkopf as "quite a chess player."

"The student body was only about 200 to 250 then, and those kids got an education and world view that kids in the states just couldn't match," Shugart said, as one of his former students, Norman Matthias Jr., class of '48, nodded in agreement. "And if we had a football game against (U.S. military) high schools in Munich or Vienna, the Army would commandeer a German train to take us there and back."

Added Matthias, a former Frankfurt Eagles' football team member: "We had a lot of fun, even though the school was located by the city dump back then and the football field had a bomb crater at the 50 yard line with a lot of rubble in it."

"That's right," Shugart said, smiling. "There was not a whole lot around here but rubble."

## Ahead of their times

The verdant, high-rise-lined Frankfurt of today is such a prosperous city that some former students at the reunion barely recognized it. But none is likely to forget the city, or the school, that played such a pivotal role in their lives.

"Frankfurt is a lot more colorful now; it used to be uniformly gray," said class of '61 graduate Monasmith. "But I was surprised by how much it had not changed, because I could still find my way around town. It restored Technicolor to my memory."

"And when I walked by the old PX, I remembered walking there one day in 1959 with (fellow reunion attendee) Bob Engs, who is now a professor of history at Princeton. Bob is black, and a German walking the other way was giving us dirty looks; he didn't like a black kid and white kid walking together, and he spit at our feet."

"Without looking at each other, Bob and I both flipped him the bird and walked on. And Bob said: 'Before I came to Germany, I was a Negro. Now that I'm in Germany I'm an American.' We never looked at each other as black, white, Mexican, Puerto Rican or whatever. We were Americans. And when we got back to the states, we found they were still arguing about whether black and white kids could go to school together. At Frankfurt American High School, we were ahead of our times."

## End of an Era: Cold War's demise closes book on U.S. Military in Frankfurt

by George Varga,  
The San Diego Union-Tribune

FRANKFURT, Germany--The I. G. Farben Building sits empty now, its eight stories and 600,000 square feet of offices stripped bare, its marble floors and walls beset by an eerie silence.

From 1952 until last December, this massive yet stately building was the headquarters for the U.S. Army's V Corps, which used it to house a work force of up to 3,000 Americans and several hundred Germans.

Today, those workers are gone, as is all but a trace of their presence in the historic building that served as Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's first postwar European headquarters in 1945. (Unlike much of the city around it, this former German chemical warfare complex was spared from Allied bombing attacks during World War II, reportedly at Eisenhower's behest.)

The sole reminders of the U.S. presence here are the notices affixed to the door of each empty room in the deserted Farben building, which on May 24 was turned over to the city of Frankfurt and an uncertain fate.

The notices, in English, all bear the same message: *This office has been cleared.*

With V Corps greatly reduced in size and relocated 52 miles south in Heidelberg, that message now applies to virtually all of Frankfurt, at least as far as the U.S. military is concerned. And come Thursday, the U.S. military presence here will quietly end after 50 years.

Indeed, the departure of U.S. forces here is visible not just in the Farben building, but at more than two dozen locations covering a 96.5-square-mile area in and around Frankfurt.

Witness the two dormant rifle ranges, four closed bowling alleys, five empty libraries and six deserted gymnasiums. Witness the four Department of Defense Schools campuses--two elementary, one junior high and one senior high--that last month closed their doors for good

after bidding farewell to their final graduating classes.

And witness the seven ghost town-like housing areas, now abandoned and overgrown with weeds, that once were home to 8,828 U.S. military families in Frankfurt and its suburbs.

### MILITARY DOWNSIZING IN GERMANY

US Troops	Year
250,000 .....	1988
171,000 .....	1992
100,000 .....	1995
60,000 (est) .....	1996

As a result of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent demise of the Iron Curtain and the Cold War, this thriving Germany city and financial center is now bereft of all but little more than 100 of the 60,000 Americans that little more than a decade ago constituted almost one-tenth of Frankfurt's population.

Their departure is mirrored by the reduction of U.S. troops throughout Germany, down from 250,000 in 1988 to just 100,000 today. If and when Russia becomes a member of NATO, some observers believe, the U.S. military role in Europe could end altogether.

Meanwhile, Frankfurt provides a dramatic example of the changing times and the U.S. military's declining role in a Germany it once dominated.

"Peace breaks out, and we're gone," said Virginia Johnson, who from 1957 to 1986 taught music and German at the now-defunct Frankfurt American High School (FAHS). "The fact of it is sad, but the reason for it is not."

Rancho Mirage resident Bob Castle, a former jet fighter squadron commander at Miramar Naval Air Station, agreed.

"It's absolutely the end of an era and that's a good thing," said Castle,

who graduated from FAHS in 1954. "But it is a humongous change."

### Cold War impact

Indeed, the end of the Cold War has accomplished what no neutron bomb or social protests ever could: the peaceful elimination of the U.S. military forces that were a vital, albeit sometimes controversial, presence here for longer than many of Frankfurt's citizens have been alive.

Perhaps no one is more acutely aware of this transition than Lt. Col. Steven B. Henry, the head of the U.S. Army's recently deactivated 418th Base Support Battalion.

Henry, 41, has the dual distinction of being Frankfurt's final U.S. military commander and the man charged with closing down the city's various U.S. facilities and turning them over to the Germans.

A year ago, he headed a work force of several dozen American soldiers and 1,000 German civilians. By last week, Henry's battalion had dwindled to just eight soldiers, augmented by even fewer Germans.

On Thursday, the boyish-looking career Army officer and his family will return to the states, and the U.S. military presence in Frankfurt will officially be over.

The only remnants of that presence will be the Marines who work at Frankfurt's American consulate, and the staff of 100 U.S. servicemen and women at American Forces Network (AFN) radio, which still broadcasts to much of Germany from a studio across from what was Frankfurt's largest U.S. military shopping center.

"It's like closing down a city in the U.S., and it's kind of a bittersweet thing for a lot of people," Henry said somberly.

"We have Americans who were born here and military personnel who retired here, or married locals. There's a great connection to the community, so it is very sad for a lot of people. Because this is their hometown, and their hometown is closing."

## 'It becomes your home'

Leslie Spear, 47, and Dave Basarich, 26, are two Americans whose connections to Frankfurt are as old as they are.

Spear was born in 1947 at Frankfurt's enormous 97th General Army Hospital, which now sits unused and fenced off. (The 97th will, however, remain in American hands, for possible reactivation in the event of a major military crisis in Europe, Africa or the Middle East.)

Basarich was born in 1969 at the smaller but still-active Wiesbaden Air Force Hospital, 25 minutes outside Frankfurt. Both he and Spear are graduates of FAHS, which until last year was the largest Department of Defense-operated high school for U.S. military dependents in the world.

With the exception of studying cosmetology off and on in England after her graduation in 1967, Spear has lived her entire life in Frankfurt.

Basarich, who graduated in 1987 and whose father was the principal of FAHS from 1985-1990, has never lived outside the Frankfurt area. He has only visited the U.S. on short vacations with his parents, who still live in nearby Darmstadt.

"I've been here all my life, and I love it," said Spear, a spirited, dark-haired woman who helped organize last month's multiclass reunion at FAHS.

"When you're born and raised in a country, it becomes your home. But my home was not only this city; it was also the Frankfurt military command. Now that they're going away, it's like the rug being pulled out, and it saddens me. It's very upsetting."

Like Spear, Basarich still regularly wears an FAHS letterman jacket. But he is less emotional about the turn of events in Frankfurt, even though he acknowledges, "While I've always been an American citizen, my way of life is European."

"It's definitely the end of an era, but I'm not sad. If anything, I'm nostalgic," Basarich said matter-of-factly. "Personally, I'm not concerned, because I can still get a job in Darmstadt, where the U.S. (military) population has remained constant for 20 years. Besides, I'm going to go to

Brooks College in Santa Barbara in the fall to study photography."

## No plans to leave

Spear, conversely, has no plans to leave Frankfurt, even though her job prospects are slim and she was recently classified as 100 percent handicapped because of kidney disease.



Leslie Spear '67 at the reunion in Frankfurt  
(photo by Mike Jernigan '68)

For the past five years she worked at the front desk of the Ambassador Arms, a U.S. military hotel across the street from her former high school.

But the Ambassador Arms closed permanently May 31, and Spear has been unable to obtain a new position in or around Frankfurt that pays enough to keep abreast of the expensive German economy and the constantly embattled U.S. dollar.

"I am the last of a breed," she declared, as she drove a visitor through downtown Frankfurt in her faded blue Chevrolet. "This has always been my home, and the hardest thing is to lose this. There's nothing for me to go back to in the U.S."

Spear backed her car into a parking place across from the Hauptwache, the city's main shopping area. After she came to a stop, her eyes welled with tears.

"There are a lot of (American) people here like me who are not very happy right now," she said. "It cost the U.S. taxpayers at least \$20 million to shut down (U.S. military installations in) Frankfurt, and to move V Corps to Heidelberg and

squeeze them into an area that is too small. Someone should have done some investigating."

## Eager speculators

At least for now, the exact cost of shutting down the U.S. military in Frankfurt, and the savings that will result, seem difficult to determine.

The most recent figures available from the public affairs office for the 418th Battalion, which date from 1986, indicate the 1985 U.S. military budget for the Frankfurt region was almost \$80 million. (According to a 1990 newspaper report, the U.S. military that year pumped \$8 billion into the German economy, including jobs for approximately 170,000 Germans, nationwide.)

Construction projects at U.S. facilities in Frankfurt were budgeted at \$30 million in 1985. Some buildings in the area, such as the 900-seat Idle Hour movie theater, across from the high school, were renovated as recently as last year, even though it was already known the theater would close permanently this spring.

All told, the departed U.S. military leaves in its wake a total of 30 now-empty installations in Frankfurt, down from the 44 installations in operation here through 1989.

Many of these sites are now eagerly being eyed by German real estate speculators in this property-scarce city, as well as by various businesses and city and state government officials.

All of the property in the U.S. installations are located on is owned by the German government, which since 1945 provided the land cost-free to the American forces.

Most of the seven former U.S. housing areas are being considered as low-income quarters for Germany's Gastarbeiter, or "guest workers," foreign laborers who perform minimum-wage jobs.

"Just tell people back in the states that we're trying to take care of the taxpayers' money," Lt. Col. Henry said, speaking in the makeshift office he has occupied for the past three months a mile from the Farben building. "I couldn't even begin to tell you how much it cost to close this community."

## 'Must not forget'

Emptying the contents of the Farben building alone required 300 moving vans. And during last fall's Operation Clean Sweep, 260 tons of trash to be burned and 120 tons of scrap metal were hauled out of the U.S. military housing areas in Frankfurt.

"And that was only part of it," noted Henry, who wryly added, "Americans like to collect things."

Henry declined to speculate on the specific reasons the U.S. military decided to shut down its Frankfurt facilities, rather than those in Heidelberg, an hour away. Heidelberg is less centrally located and lacks Frankfurt's immediate proximity to Rhein Main Air Base, which bills itself as "The Gateway to Europe."

But the U.S. departure may have been hastened by Walter Wallman, the premier of Hesse, the Germany state in which Frankfurt is located.

In 1990, less that a year after the Berlin Wall came down, Wallman formally requested that U.S. troops be withdrawn, not just from Frankfurt, but from *all* of Hesse.

"A pullout would offer the city new possibilities for development and utilization," Wallman wrote in a 1990 letter to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

"It is interesting to talk to people, because you never get a clear conception of whether we should be here or not," Henry observed. "There are some people who don't appreciate our presence. They felt we were here to keep our thumb in things, when it was essentially (for) the defense of Central Europe.

"Now it's a matter of (Germany) being a good location for further deploying to other areas, which was demonstrated during Operation Desert Storm. It's a lot easier to transport military machinery out of Germany to Africa or the Middle East than from anywhere else."

Regardless, what was once thought impossible by many Germans and Americans alike--the departure of the U.S. military from Frankfurt--is now a reality. And that distresses some Germans, who lament the loss of what was once a vital component of Frankfurt.

"You Americans who have lived here have helped us much more than you realize," said honorary city magistrate Albrecht Magen. "In Frankfurt, you brought us a way of life, from jazz to Coca-Cola. This is a good, old relationship that will have to continue. We must not forget that we still need each other."

**"... it's an aspect of  
our lives that has  
gone forever."**

Alex DeHesse  
*hereditary prince of the state of Hesse*

Alex DeHesse, an investment banker who is also the hereditary prince of the state of Hesse, agreed. "The generation of Germans that grew up after the (Second World) War have always dealt with Americans, and the GIs have always had an influence," DeHesse noted. "Their departure will leave a hole, because they've always been here and they've always had a special place in our lives. And now, it's an aspect of our lives that has gone forever."

\* \* \* \* \*

*John Neumyer '69 and Allen Monasmith '61 brought these articles to my attention. Thank you so much!*



**May 18, 1995: Observing the Lowering of the Flag  
at Frankfurt High during Closing Ceremonies**





Photo by Karl Weisel

## ***Former Frankfurt housing for rent***

While housing areas in the former Frankfurt military community may look abandoned and overgrown without occupants, they won't be for long. Signs, such as this one in Platen Housing, advertise the former government quarters for rent. While some of the housing will be used for government and city workers, other properties are being rented, according to a representative from the Frankfurt Real Estate Office. The additional housing is much needed in Frankfurt, where there is constant demand.



Group Photo at Football Field, May 15  
(photo by Gayle Spear Cratty '69)



Gayle, Krys, Monica Olsen and John McBee  
(photo by Kathy Garner '69)

# The STARS and STRIPES

## Frankfurt High Alums Return to Bid Adieu

by Wayne V. Hall  
Staff writer

FRANKFURT, Germany — Janet Porsche needed to see her alma mater, Frankfurt High School, just one more time "and say goodbye."

"It was such a good time in my life," said the New Jersey resident, a member of the class of '72, "and once it's turned over to the Germans, there won't be any connection left."

Porsche was among the nearly 50 years' worth of former Frankfurt High students who have converged on this soon-to-close military community this week for an all-class reunion.

Roughly 400 members of the school's Alumni Association were expected to participate in the three-day event that began Monday, Leslie Spear said. Spear, who graduated in 1967, is one of the three organizers of what has been billed as the high school's last hurrah.

The reunion's events have included a dinner at Bologna, an Italian restaurant and longtime student hangout. Today, alumni are enjoying a Rhine River cruise.

Alumni like Dottie Redmond of the class of 1967 reminisced about fun times while attending the school. Now living in West Virginia, Redmond lived in the five-day dorm while her father was stationed with the American Embassy in Bonn.

During this period, when high schools were not located in every community, many students attended school far away from their homes. Some, like Redmond, lived in the dorm on school days and commuted home on weekends. Other students, whose homes were farther away, lived in seven-day dorms.

"I remember we had to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner in the school cafeteria, and we had this mess

sergeant, Sgt. Simpson. We'd try and have food fights every once in a while, and he'd come down on our case," said Redmond.

"Once a month we would collect aerosol cans and put them in a dumpster and set them on fire just to watch the MPs and fire department come."

Fun in the dorm often went beyond school grounds, Redmond said, as she recalled students putting a box of laundry detergent into a part fountain, and it foaming all the way down to the main road.

*"It's kind of nice to know  
the reason we were here  
is past."*

Mike Major  
Class of 1967

The school's appearance drastically changed over the years, Porsche said.

"If I didn't know I was in Frankfurt High School, I wouldn't even recognize it," said Porsche. "I remember we had wooden lockers and sometimes they had to spray for bugs."

"In a way I don't feel as sad as I thought I would," Porsche said of Frankfurt's closure. "The sad part was going back to Platen (housing area) to see our old apartment . . . it's like a ghost town now. We took pictures, sitting on the old stoop, and my sister and I were walking up and down the streets with tears in our eyes."

Mike Major, class of 1967, came to the reunion from Oakton, VA.

"I thought that this (Frankfurt) would become the military center, so I was surprised when they chose to close it," Major said. "It's kind of nice to know that the reason we were here is past. I'm glad the Wall is gone, and it's

nice to see that the tanks in Czechoslovakia are gone."

Not only is this reunion a joining of old friends — but for some, it was also a chance to get together with family members.

"People came from all over the world to be here. I traveled the farthest, 9,180 miles from Hawaii," said James Beauparlant, class of 1973. "My sister, Pat (LaLiberte), flew here from Indiana. We had to come to Frankfurt just to see each other."

Over the years, more than 66,000 students have attended the school, and today those students are spread all over the world, said Spear.

Some are diplomats, others are members of the armed forces, and others are even entertainment celebrities.

Some of the school's graduates who went on to serve the military have attained general officer rank, including Maj. Gen. James M. Link, class of 1960, who commands the U.S. Missile Comd at Red Stone Arsenal, Ala; retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who attended until his sophomore year, 1951; and Lt. Gen. John N. Abrams, class of 1964, V Corps commander.

This year's reunion marked the first alumni reunion to be held in Frankfurt.

"We've been saving the best for last," Spear said. "It is truly a sad moment, but overall we're not going to lose contact with one another. However, it will give us a chance to re-establish friendships with people we've known in the past."

*Special thanks to Kathy Garner '69 and Ricki Nelson Menard '71, who provided this article for reprint. It was published in the Wednesday, May 17, 1995 edition of The Stars & Stripes. The newspaper sells for 50¢ these days!*

# FAHS alumni return for first and final time

By Karl Weisel  
Staff writer

They came from all over the world to join together one last time to say goodbye to their alma mater.

Frankfurt American High School graduates from the classes of 1947 to 1994 and former teachers became reunited at a fest tent on the school's sports field, marked the occasion with a formal ceremony in the Frankfurt Roemer (city hall) and finally watched as the school's flag was taken down for the final time May 15-18.

For many it was the first time they had returned to Frankfurt since leaving the school. What they found was a modern city, an almost unrecognizable, renovated facility and a military community on its last legs.

While tears were shed by some as they remembered

instances shared in the school's hallowed halls and bid farewell for the final time, others struck up new friendships and vowed to keep in touch for years to come.

"We are here to mark the end of an era," said alumnus Michael Wettler (class of '56), during a presentation in the Roemer May 16. "This month, after 50 years, the Frankfurt American High School will close."

Established in November of 1945, FAHS saw its first graduates in June of 1946. From its initial location on a hillside in Bornheim to its current location on the Abrams Complex, over 60,000 students passed through the institution.

"We tried to become ambassadors for our country while we lived in Germany," said Wettler. "We hope we were successful. ... Who we are as individuals emerged while we lived in Frankfurt and other communities in Germany."

"Today, in a certain sense, is a sad day for the city (of Frankfurt)," said Dr. Albrecht Magen, president of the

Steuben-Schurz Gesellschaft (an influential German-American organization), during the Römer ceremony.

"The Germany of today has become much different than it was before. You who have lived here have certainly helped make Frankfurt the most American of German cities," said Magen, explaining that the expression, "take it easy," sums up the relaxed, easygoing cultural influences Americans have instilled in Frankfurt in the postwar years.

He added that Frankfurt's ties to the United States are older than World War II, citing visits by Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and others. "This is a good relationship that will have to continue."

As current and former graduates stood on the school grounds to watch the U.S. flag come down, long-time counselor Alice Sax voiced the catch phrase no Frankfurt alumnus ever forgets — "Frankfurt über alles." The school may be closed, but its memory lives on.

## Frankfurt High bids farewell to its last graduates

### Emotional ceremony honors 1995 grads

By Siobhán Carlile  
Staff Writer

Frankfurt American High School graduated its last class of Eagles May 16 at the Kongresshalle in Darmstadt. Along with reflective speeches and inspired musical performances, graduates bid farewell to one another, the faculty and their school.

"For the past 50 years this institution that we dearly love called Frankfurt American High School has continued a tradition that we will never forget," said Lt. Gen. John N. Abrams, keynote

speaker, V Corps commander and a 1964 FAHS graduate.

"This school, its stores of faculty and the people have produced the very best of America, the very best of our families and the very best of our community. Your leadership as we close our doors will long be remembered," Abrams said.

Principal Edward Siemaszko praised students and parents for their dedication. He thanked the students for their years of hard work and discipline to earn their diplomas, the athletes for their esprit de corps, the student government for its leadership, the scholars for their endless curiosity, average students for their consistency and the stu-

dents who struggled but never gave up for their perseverance.

"You are here today because you earned the right to be here," Siemaszko said. "And now it's time to say goodbye to the final flight of Eagles — class of 1995."

During his address, Abrams reminded the students that graduation is an emotional time especially since they (graduates) don't know when they will see friends again. But, he assured them they will not forget FAHS. "You will remember because you've been touched, by your friends and by the community," he said.

"Thank you for giving us old-timers the pleasure of your company for much too short a time, the excitement of your youth, the challenge of your curiosity and the creativity of your dreams," added Siemaszko.

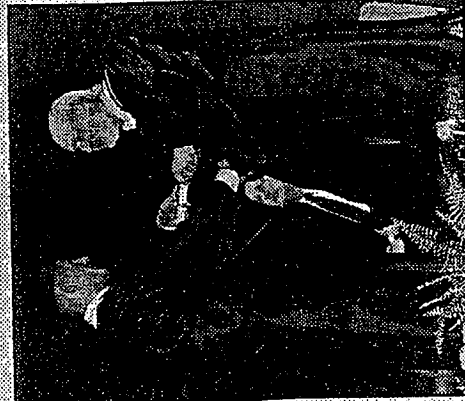


Photo by Siobhán Carlile  
Principal Ed Siemaszko awards a diploma to James Dylan Culbert.

# EAGLE'S ECHO

Frankfurt American High School

May 1995



## Auf Wiedersehen, Frankfurt!!!

*Following are excerpts of articles in the last issue of the Eagle's Echo, provided by Gayle Spear Cratty. A special feature was "Echos from the Past" — Articles from old Echos. The introduction, reprinted below, showed a healthy curiosity about the past, albeit a rather uninformed one. Appallingly, the "oldest" article reprinted was dated October 1972:*

### The Way We Were

With the news of the closing of Frankfurt High School comes the realization that an era is drawing to an end. In less than a month our school will cease to exist, save in the hearts and minds of its students. Although we feel the loss most keenly, it is important to remember that we are not alone. Forty-nine years worth of students that have gone before us also share in our loss.

Oftentimes, too caught up in the rush of the day, we fail to notice the sense of history that pervades our own school's halls and classrooms. We selfishly prefer to believe that FAHS came into being the minute we stepped in the door.

The "generalizations" to be gleaned about our school, however, are fascinating. One comes to appreciate how hard our predecessors worked to gain the little luxuries that we now enjoy.

For example, clean restrooms are often taken for granted, but twenty years ago, the look (and smell) of them was so hideous that no one in their right mind dared to venture within. It took several years of active complaint by the Student Council before the situation was corrected.

Another inconvenience for early Frankfurt students was an institution simply referred to as the "annex." Poor unfortunate souls who had classes in these outlying buildings were forced to run through traffic to reach their destinations. Because of the lack of sidewalks in the annex area, sloshing through almost ankle-deep mud was a very common occurrence.

One thing FAHS students have never lacked is creativity. This is never more evident than when reading articles written for student publications of the time. Some are masterpieces of satire while others show a passionate conviction toward a particular social issue. Then there are those that are just plain funny!

So it is now with great pleasure that the *Eagle's Echo* now presents to you a montage of voices from Frankfurt's past, in the form in which they were first published. All grammatical errors and spelling mistakes found in these articles are there on purpose. The views in them do not necessarily reflect FAHS' views today. □

### Top 100 Cool Things about Frankfurt

100. Junior Class
99. The cafeteria food
98. The multiple schedules
97. That sculpture in senior hall (does anyone know what it is supposed to be??!)
94. Open campus lunch
93. That obnoxious girl from Darmstadt (gee, Rusty, some things never change!! ☺)
92. V Corp started here
91. Frau Langer's accordion
88. The FAHS mice
80. The cats that live in the rain drains
78. All four members of the gymnastics team
76. The teachers!
72. Fire drills
69. That one cheerleader
67. The late bus rides
63. Drama's London trip
34. The Video Yearbook
29. The dancing eagle mascot
15. Teacher workdays
14. Spring Break
13. The easily accessible bathrooms
11. The alma mater
10. "Big Ed"
9. The trendy PX clothing
8. The one and a half guidance counselors
7. GRADUATION
6. STIG
5. Friday pep rallies
4. Mo
3. Getting out a month early
2. SENIOR CLASS
1. IT'S CLOSING!!!! □

May 1995 Eagle's Echo, Continued:

*Frau Langer Remembers:*

## Her History at Frankfurt High

by Dan Opstal  
Staff writer

**F**rau Marie-Luise Langer, the German teacher, has spent a long and glorious time at Frankfurt American High School.

She came here in 1962, just two years after the iron curtain went up between east and west Germany.

She had just come from a 12-year teaching career at Hanau junior high school. Originally, she came to see how her transfer students would do at Frankfurt High, but an old friend of hers, Principal Moore told her, "Stay here, you are hired. We need you." She accepted the job, and that's how Frau Langer came to be teaching here.

Her first impressions of Frankfurt were a bit of a let down. She had to teach in a corrugated sheet iron hut due to the great population of students at Frankfurt at this time. However, she soon started decorating the area and made the steel huts look like an expression of German culture with her students.

Finally, in 1965, she was allowed out of the steel huts and she moved into her first actual classroom, number 210 (now number 252).

She was very happy to be in an actual classroom again, but at that time the classrooms were a far cry from today.

The windows let through all the noise, and the traffic from the highway blasted into the classroom. The floor and ceiling were made of rough, brown stone; very different from today's rubber floor and improved ceiling.

In 1974 the dress code in Frankfurt was finally abolished, and the days of wearing uniforms to school were over.

Before this time, girls were not allowed to wear jeans to school.

Another interesting fact that Frau Langer learned is where the name

Eagle's Nest came from. It actually comes from the fact that the first Frankfurt High School was at the Rats-Herrnweg, a road close to the Eisporthalle and Dippemess area.

The school was located on a hill and that's where Eagle's Nest comes from.

Frau Langer's most memorable moment at Frankfurt High was when the school was certified "Best of the West" in 1984 by the NCA (North Central Association). Each of the teachers were recognized with a certificate and the inspection gentleman was very impressed with her and her classroom.

Frau Langer has always enjoyed helping and teaching young people. She calls it her *Berufung* (calling) to teach. It's what she's wanted to do ever since she was a young girl. Now, with 45 years of teaching under her belt, Frau Langer is closing her career with the closing of the school. A remarkable end to a wonderful teaching career.

**W**ell, campers, the proverbial fat lady has sung. The year is almost to an end, and with it ends the long era of Frankfurt American High School.

Some of you are probably thinking to yourself, "Good. I'll be glad to leave this place." And some of you will be. But there are others, like us, who are sad to see this old place close. Sad to see the end of a tradition.

Frankfurt American High School has been a tradition of excellence. The Eagle's Echo, the student newspaper, has been around almost as long as the school has.

We, the staff, have been very proud to serve you this final year. So it is with aching hearts that we bid you "Auf Wiedersehen!"

Go with the memories of Frankfurt, and soar like EAGLES!

## PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

by Wade Preston  
StuCo President

**F**rankfurt's final year was a great success.

We started the year with doubts and a lot of fear of what the DRAWDOWN would do to all the students.

We knew we would lose a lot of friends and companions along the way, but we are happy to say that we have made it.

I saw at the beginning of the year a school very determined to prove to Europe that Frankfurt was still a force to be reckoned with.

We conquered many teams in football, the cross country teams ran to victory, volleyball set and spiked their way to a third place finish in Europeans.

Then came the winter. Our basketball teams had many easy wins. The teams that went against our vicious Eagles were very shocked to see our mighty Eagles soar high over the competition. Wrestling was another sport where Frankfurt prevailed under the leadership of Danny Pervel and Joe Hardy.

Now spring is here. Guy's soccer is sitting pretty in the number one position. Track is hurdling over all of its competition. And the gymnastics team has been steadily improving, coming in second place to the British School of Brussels by 0.25 points, with 6 competitors less.

So as I stated at the beginning of the year, Frankfurt will not be forgotten. As we all know too well, the year is coming to an end. The long history of Frankfurt is coming to a close, and you, the students of FAHS, have made it memorable. Thank you all. Good Luck and God Bless.



## ODE TO FRANKFURT HIGH

by Mike Moskowitz '69

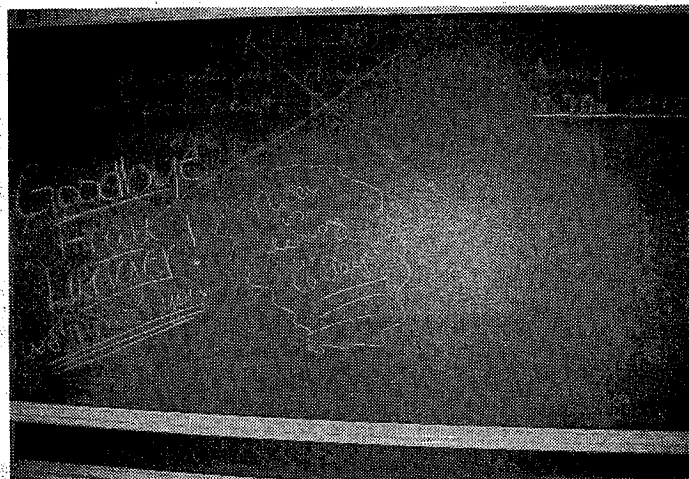
*Editor's Note: Unable to make the June reunion at FHS, Mike stopped by the school a month later and joined the DOD supply specialists who were closing up the school in one final run-through. His comments follow in the form of his "Ode to Frankfurt High," as he turned off the lights of a very special place.*

**S**ilence. Haunting silence. Bustling excitement in the hallways of the school has been replaced by darkness. Classrooms once filled with bright, inquisitive faces are now completely empty. A football field and track that saw so many tests of courage, endurance and competition are like deserted battlefields at Gettysburg. A basketball court that saw more Eagles soaring than we could imagine offers a home court advantage to no one any more.

Despite this otherwise bleak scenario, the world that once was Frankfurt High offers occasional welcomed visions of the past. The original sign, "Frankfurt Stadium — Home of the Eagles" still stands proudly over the football field. The basketball court could easily see another 30 years of use. The chemistry classroom remarkably has the same tiled benches for experiments as it did in 1969. An original blackboard commands curious attention in an empty classroom on the second floor. And even more remarkably, the presence of wonderful teachers and students can be felt absolutely everywhere.

**W**alk into Mr. Martin's classroom and his enthusiasm grabs you. Walk into Miss Nicholas' classroom, and her passion for learning can still take your breath away. Stroll by Mr. Mecham's classroom, and you still feel his creative thespian energy. Stop in to see Miss Moore's classroom, and you still feel her kindness, and her love of the French language.

Take a walk over to "Annex A", and you still sense Mr. Kowalski's good-natured approach to teaching Geometry, or Mr. Haight's patience in teaching Algebra. Stand on the football field or basketball court, and you will hear each great coach exhorting you to run and hit faster, push harder, dribble faster and shoot quicker.



Frau Langer's Blackboard

*"Allen Schülern, Auf Wiedersehen! Danke für ein gutes Jahr. Ich wünsche euch schöne Sommerferien und alles gute für die Zukunft.  
-- Frau Langer @ 18 Mai 1995" (photo by Mike Moskowitz)*

One special shrine also remains on the second floor of the main high school building. Frau Lange's classroom, even without any books or wonderful travel posters, is unquestionably all hers. A thoughtful note she wrote in May, wishing her students a great summer and "Alles Gute" is still on the blackboard. The view from the windows on to the football field is virtually unchanged over so many years. Looking around a bit closer, over the hall doorway, one notices two words written in beautiful Frau Lange script, "Respekt + Würde" (respect and self worth). Wonderful words that capture one person's view of teaching and dedication to hundreds of students over the years.

**N**ow deserted, Frankfurt High School (and the many communities where we once lived) is seen as a "Geisterstadt" (ghost town) by many Germans. To those of us who once lived here and were fortunate enough to attend this great school, it is as alive as we are. George Santana (the philosopher, not the great rock band) instructs the world that those who forget history are condemned to repeat it. In the case of Frankfurt High School alumni spread out all over the world, we should strive to pass on the ideals and tremendous memories of the school to a new generation so that they can profit from our rich experience. We should also remember how truly fortunate we are for having contributed something to Frankfurt High, and for having gotten so much in return—from the lifelong friends we made here, from our teachers, and from Frankfurt am Main. *Eagles Über Alles!*



### Faces of the Frankfurt Reunion

*(photos courtesy of Gayle Spear Cratty, Mike Jernigan, and Peggy Rowland-Sanchez)*



## ALUMNI FOUND SINCE SPRING '95 NEWSLETTER

### *Welcome to the FHS Alumni Association!*

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Brenda Morgan Tolson '75  
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## NEXT: Seattle '96



The Seattle '96 Reunion Committee is pleased to announce that the next reunion will be on Friday, July 19th and Saturday, July 20th. Dana Cox '70 is negotiating with the Warwick Hotel in downtown Seattle, and we'll have all the details in the Spring newsletter. If you are considering coming to the reunion, please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire at the bottom of the dues form. We need an estimation of the number of people coming for planning purposes.



**SEATTLE REUNION COMMITTEE, July 1995**

L-R: Gaye Crosby, Bev Marshall, Kathy Garner, Janie Cville, Janet Worthington and Dana Cox (photos courtesy of Gaye Crosby Smith)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

10 May 1995

I received your latest newsletter as promised. Thank you for helping me connect with former students of FAHS. I wrote to **Linda Fillingham '73** and **Stephanie Dempsey '75**. **Allen Monasmith** came through in a BIG way. He xeroxed pages from the two yearbooks I was part of and mailed them to me!! I can't tell you how exciting it has been to look at each picture—it has brought back many memories. The only disappointment is that many of my friends have not "registered" with this Alumni Association. There are a few people living around here (Chesapeake, VA) who attended FAHS, but I never knew them. I am trying to get the nerve to phone them!

I pulled out my FAHS drill team uniform—my only school memento. I remember we had to make them ourselves, and I did. I have the letter "F" with my name on it. As time passes, I get more sentimental. It is so sad that FAHS is closing. Thank God for the memories.

Since my chapter doesn't seem active, I would like to join yours. Perhaps I'll "meet" some '73-'74 alumni. If in the process I am lucky and someone contacts me from my year span, consider the \$20 a donation. You have unlocked so much of my past. Thank you for taking the time and caring so much. I look forward to all future contacts and news from FAHS alumni.

-- **Brenda Morgan Tolson '75**

*Brenda, those of us who've been involved in our alumni associations for awhile have discovered one truth—it doesn't matter if we knew each other in high school, the common bond of having attended FAHS makes instant friends of us all. That's why our reunions are so powerful! Hope you are able to experience that, and find new friends.*

15 May 1995

Thought it would be appropriate to mail my FAHSAA dues on the day one of the closing ceremonies is to take place! Hope all who went to Frankfurt have a great time. My sisters—Ellie and Annie—leave today. They'll miss the activity at the high school, but will make it to City Hall. Hard to believe that it's all happening... that the school and base will be permanently closed!

Life itself is great; this school year is moving along quickly. Only 5 weeks to go, yet there's a tremendous amount to be done! Don't think it'll be a problem keeping busy. Take care--and thanks for all you do for the Alumni Association!

-- **Susan Regan '69**

20 June 1995

Well, I guess you must think that I dropped off the face of the Earth again. Nearly, but not quite. I've been rather preoccupied since March 19 (coincidentally my birthday). I was laid off from my job as Director of Logistics with US Foodservice here in Dallas and I've been seeking another job ever since. A few good prospects have arisen, but

nothing really suitable yet. I will continue to persevere.

Of course, my employment status puts our adoption on hold, so there's nothing to report there either.



**Chip Bradshaw '69**

"Fish is 8½ lb black bass taken out of Lake Fork in east Texas (and released later unharmed)."

The good news is that, since we last spoke, I have been in touch with several FAHS alumni. Most of them read my "open letter" in the Newsletter (Fall '94) and either wrote or called me. The list includes: Bob Kingwell right here in Dallas, Janie Civile in Olympia, WA, Chris Horak in Munich, Felix Rosel in San Antonio, Jim Papile in Alexandria, VA (with the help of Allen Monasmith), Wes Moody in Lexington, KY, and Donna Peacher in Memphis, TN.

It has been very interesting to hear from all these people. My wife pointed out a very unusual fact, however. Bob Kingwell, Chris Horak, Wes Moody, and I have all had to adopt children. Seems a bit odd, doesn't it?

Besides looking for a new job, my time is occupied by trying to teach myself how to use my PC, which I got for my birthday. I'm on America Online at EBrad69. Please share this address with anybody who may want to reach me online. I have developed quite a relationship with Donna Peacher and Wes Moody over the Internet.

Best regards to all.

-- **Chip Bradshaw '69**

3 July 1995

Got your "package" (old editions of our *Bald Eagles Echoes*). There's some great stuff in it. Names and faces that I hadn't seen in nearly a quarter of a century (omygawd!) were there.

Since I'm retired in my home town, most of the folks that I went to elementary school and junior high school with stayed here. I find that I really have a strange view of relating to what they like to do and what we like to do. Most of them consider going to the Florida Keys as a big trip overseas. Seeing Mr. Mecham's bio and helping the local folks here with their reunion made me think, are there any deceased persons from '68 - '71? When you're away from someone, you can't help wondering what has happened to them. That's why alumni associations exist. We all want to preserve links to the past. When you do, however, you must consider that there are some things you might not want to know. I'm glad that some of you over the years have made the (extraordinary) efforts that you have to try and find everyone. I know that it is a monumental task. Just trying to find Cleo Hebbe and Russ Tilton over the years has been so frustrating.

Well, I was 5 years old Saturday! Five years ago on that day I had my stroke. Surviving it has been a real milestone for me—probably a curse for others, who knows? Or cares?!

I certainly wish that I could have attended the reunion. I won't be able to go to the next one (Seattle) either because Mary and I are going on a cruise to South America. I will, however, be going to the one in Sarasota (1997).

Again, it was just wonderful talking to you. Take care.

-- Bill Cox '70

*Bill managed to find Russ Tilton and called me on August 14th. Russ' Dad was the best man at my wedding, so this find was a particular thrill. Billy, thanks for your efforts-- I am naming you Official FHS Bloodhound. Go get ALL those classmates we're missing, guy!*

## ALUMNI NEWS

### Class of 1967

Yvonne Andrejenko says she finally decide to move: "We picked up our animals and business and moved from So. California to Nevada (what a change!). Doing something we always wanted to do—build our own house, which we started in October. Hopefully it will be completed by July 1. I could write a book about the do's and don'ts."

We finally heard from Phil Bepko! "Well—I held out as long as I could, but—as they say, 'another one bites the dust.' However, I find the taste quite pleasing and not dry in the least. On February 1, 1994, I married Linda, who is not only beautiful but is also an Air Force brat (like me).

"I now have a family of four, with wife Linda, son Chris

(17), and daughter Jennifer (11). Obviously, I find it a little more difficult to make the reunions, but my thoughts are with you all . . . Oh! Tell Bob Bolick to watch out . . . I think he's next and to remember: Like rain, it's inevitable . . . so just sit back, relax, and enjoy. I hope to see you all sometime real soon."

Nils Ohberg: "After graduation I attended the University of Georgia, graduating with a B.S. in biochemistry in 1972 as an ROTC-commissioned 2LT. After serving 2 years as a basic training officer at Ft. Dix, NJ, I settled in Atlanta where I got my M.Ed. from Ga. State University and started teaching high school chemistry (thanks, Mr. Turner) in 1976. In 1981 I married Pamela, the drama teacher at my high school. We have two beautiful children, Gunnar, 8, and Annika, 6. Pamela and I were at the reunion in Frankfurt this Spring and I'm finding that part of me is still homesick for FHS."

Maury Pepin has moved . . . "I am now in Cambridge, Massachusetts, working as Associate Editor at *Sky & Telescope* magazine, the "Essential Magazine of Astronomy." I'm doing any Germany-related translations and stories here in addition to the regular editorial duties covering amateur research and equipment test reports.

"I hope the group had a great time in Germany: No way I could make it, although I was there in spirit. Some day I will return . . ."

### Class of 1968

Mary Herndon: "I was sorry to miss the special reunion in Frankfurt.

"I work in the chemistry department at Ohio State University as the Lecture Demonstrator and Program Administrator of Undergraduate Chemistry. I have written the Study Guide and Solutions Manual for three college chemistry textbooks (How I would love to see Mr. Turner's reaction to this!)"

Mr. Turner again! We'll have to see if we can find him so he knows how Nils and Mary "turned" out . . .

Chet Watson dropped us a line: "Amazingly enough, the Spring '95 *Echo* found me. It is unfortunate that I did not know of the May gathering in Frankfurt, as I was there on business and could have stopped in. For the last several years I have been mostly out of the country, and some mail just never caught up with me.

"In January my wife and I moved to corporate headquarters in Massachusetts. I currently hold the position of Chief Technical Officer for International Business Communications Systems, Inc., a Massachusetts-based telecommunications company that designs and builds telephone companies with our joint venture partners in the former Soviet Union. This is the fourth US-Russian telecommunications joint venture that I have been a founder of over the past 10 years.

"My wife, Joy, and I have spent the last 2 years living in Amsterdam, where I established and managed our European technical operations center. I have spent a good deal of time over the past 3 years commuting between



Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Bonn, Berlin, Stuttgart, Paris, Rome, Vienna, and throughout the entire territory of the former Soviet Union, with an occasional stopover in America. Life continues to be an amazing adventure for me."

## Class of 1969

**Kathy Garner** writes, "As I've told you by phone in recent weeks, I've been thrilled and excited to have found that there really are people out there that also went to FAHS 25/26 years ago, and that living and going to school in Frankfurt wasn't just something I imagined!

"I followed John Royal to Texas after High School graduation and haven't been to Germany since my folks left there in 1970. I lived in Texas and Oklahoma for 7 years, where I went to college and started a career in medical technology. When John and I divorced, I came to explore Seattle and the Northwest, where my folks had retired.

"I haven't had any contact with old Frankfurt people since the early 70's, and I'm really excited about the reunion in Frankfurt. I hope to be involved in the Seattle reunion in 1996 and see anyone that can't get to Frankfurt this year.

"I love Seattle and call it home, although I've enjoyed travelling over the years as well. A long exploration, on my own, of Australia inspired me to see the Japan I missed as a child there, and a desire to discover Latin America got me to Cancun, Mexico on a short mission project this year.

"I returned to college in the late 80's to get a nursing degree, and after a variety of nursing experiences, including several years of Alzheimer's care, I've spent the last 3 years in intensive and hospice care of AIDS patients. At the moment I'm taking a respite from that and part-timing in family practice, returning to the lab work and building my little sewing and alterations business. It's such a joy to find you all."

**Dave "Lee" Howard:** "The Frankfurt reunion was absolutely 'spitze'; went to three great Sachsenhausen parties. Bonded with many old friends, especially those wild girls from '70 and '71! Ended up doing 27 gigs in 49 days all over Europe--best tour ever. 1996 tour is set for 15 May - 15 July.



**Lee Howard and GERAL Martin**  
(photo by Peggy Rowland-Sanchez '71)

"Now putting finishing touches to new CD to be released on higher octave worldwide under the name of 'Lee Howard--String Surfer.' (Brindizi-working title.) See you in Seattle!"

**Arthur "Dusty" Walton** found our alumni association through the article on the closing of Frankfurt High printed in the San Diego Union-Tribune and reprinted in this newsletter. He started calling people named in the article and **Allen Monasmith '61** put him in touch with us. Dusty was a member of the "Overlords" band in high school, and now lives in Santee, California, outside of San Diego. He retired from the LAPD, is a member of the 12,000-member Blue Knights Motorcycle Club, and will graduate from nursing school in May.

Dusty had a lot of inquiries re old classmates, such as Jules Gyori, Barb Phillips, Susette Bollard, Jan Baumgartner, Chip Bradshaw, Chris and Mike Horak, Rachel Ryan, Tracy Cameron, Rocky Lett and Janie Eyler. It was great that I could tell him about most of you! Welcome to our alumni association, Dusty.

## Class of 1970

**Janie Civile** lives in Olympia, WA and is a botanist and environmental planner for Washington State Natural Resources Department. "I manage the effort to remove Spartina from Washington estuaries and native salt marshes, and try to spend significant professional time in hipboots and mucky tideflats of Willapa Bay, WA. Spartina is native to the east coast, but is rapidly invading our open intertidal habitats and converting them to drier, dense meadows.

"Attended college and grad school on a 13-year skiing, rare-plant survey, mule packing and acoustic music program. Graduate research was conducted on new grass species along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, Idaho. Currently living with two labradors in old-growth filbert, camellia and rhododendron preserve, pretending to be **anything** other than a bureaucratic, suburban homeowner (insert muffled shriek here)."

(E-Mail: JCKK490@WADNR.GOV)

**Billy Cox:** "After graduation my father retired from the Air Force and we returned home. I started college in 1970. In December, 1971, I married the former Mary Elizabeth Medlen, a native of Tennessee who was transplanted to Florida. We both dropped out of college and I began a military career in the Air Force. My first assignment was to Bitburg, Germany. I was a tactical fighter aircraft crew chief (F-4 Phantoms) and I spent a lot of time TDY while stationed in Germany. I was subsequently assigned to Shaw AFB, South Carolina, Tyndall AFB, Florida (my hometown, had to pull some strings for that assignment!), Iceland (ran out of strings), and Tyndall again (some strings attached).

"On July 2, 1990, I suffered a stroke which caused the left side of my body to become paralyzed. The Air Force decided that I needed to be somewhere besides active duty, so with 19 years and three months in, I was medically retired. I learned to walk again, started back to college,

and soon learned that I had cancer. After an operation and six months of chemotherapy, my cancer was in remission.

"I turned my 12-year involvement with computers into a consulting business quite a few years ago. Programming computers ranked right up there with sitting around watching my car rust, but the money was good. My doctor told me a few years back to quit working and lose weight . . . one out of two ain't bad.

"Mary and I have retired in Panama City, Florida. We have two children, Amy and Travis. Amy is eighteen going on thirty, and is a freshman in college, majoring in Subtle Methods for Bankrupting Your Parents While Driving Them Crazy. Travis is fifteen, a sophomore in high school, and wants to attend either the Air Force or Naval Academy and fly fighters. I'm just waiting for that first young lady to get his FULL attention and those well-thought-out plans will probably go right in the toilet, hopefully not.

"The picture is of me after my last ride in the F-15 Eagle. Before takeoff, the pilot said that after we got out of the chocks, the airplane was mine. I took us off from the back seat and did a maximum performance take-off climb to 30,000 feet, flew out over the Gulf of Mexico and broke the sound barrier for my last time.

"The sortie was a rush, more so than usual. I really miss being around high-performance airplanes and flying in them.

"I think that Gaye deserves a lot of credit for the monumental task that she's undertaken. { ♥ why, thank U, Billy! ♥ } I'm sure that it takes a great deal of time, leg-work, telephone calls, and letter writing for her to do the things she's done. I think that I can safely speak for all of us when I say how much I appreciate her efforts.

"I look forward to seeing all of you at future reunions. Wishing you all great health and good fortune."

(E-Mail: BULLET MAN@AOL.COM)

*Billy and his family were right in the path of Hurricane Opal. I am so pleased to report that they came through without major damage!*

**Laurie Skinner:** "Besides being a producer, I have volunteered my services caring for wolves (a love I have had since childhood) at a wolf sanctuary at which I also walk mountain lions with a leash! Am also singing with a rock band that specializes in 60's music—what a hoot!! (That's just temporary, though . . .) Can't wait for the Seattle reunion!"  
(E-Mail: LDS WOLFF@AOL.COM)



**Billy D. Cox '70**

## Class of 1971

**Michael Pawlowski** says he's still practicing emergency medicine in Houston. "Sorry I couldn't make the Frankfurt reunion. E-mail me, y'all."

(E-Mail: MI96711438@AOL.COM)

## Class of 1975

**Brenda Morgan Tolson** is a Reading Specialist with Portsmouth Public Schools in Virginia. Her husband is also a teacher of middle school students. Their daughter, Mary, is 9 years old and involved in many sports. They enjoy travelling and the outdoors.

Brenda attended FAHS in 1973 and 1974 and is hoping that through our Chapter she might find some classmates from her era. We're pleased to do anything we can to help!



**Linda Reese duKor and brother Raymond**  
(photo by Mike Jernigan '68)



## FRANKFURT AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Classes of 1967 - 1971

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**Eschenheimer Tor**  
*(photo by Kathy Garner '69)*

Erinnerungen



Frankfurt  
American High School