A Riverboat cruise on the Mississippi River was a great place for a wonderful reunion! The first night was at the Riverside Hilton Hotel in New Orleans, with dinner at Drago’s, world famous for char-broiled oysters. The next day we took a walking tour of the French Quarter: Bourbon Street, Jackson Square, St. Louis Cathedral, and Café du Monde.

Later that day the paddle wheels turned, the steamboat whistle blew, and the calliope played as we were rollin’ on the river. The American Queen, built as an authentic paddle-wheeler, had staterooms decorated in period furnishings. In the luxurious dining room, the staff served regional Mississippi cuisine. There was alternative dining in the café, with tables outside on the deck.

Highlights were the entertainment and the shore excursions, and being with fellow Heidelbergers. There were Broadway-caliber shows each evening, sock hops, 50’s & 60’s music, and Bourbon Street jazz sessions. Two plantations were included excursions—Nottaway and Oak Alley. Premium excursions included a swamp tour and a Creole plantation.

Everyone let the good times roll!


Photos of the 2018 reunion follow on the next two pages; see them all in color at hhsearlyyears.com.
WALKING TOUR L-R Kay Kidwell Hoech ’58, Joel Allen ’58, George Hoech, Lin Banks, Webster, Mike Banks ’58, Bill Stietenroth, Tour Guide, Riley Jackson, ’62.

WALKING TOUR – FRENCH QUARTER

NOTTOWAY PLANTATION

AMERICAN QUEEN


AMERICAN QUEEN STEAM CALLIOPE
GRAND SALOON - Music of the 50’s and 60’s.


J.M. WHITE DINING ROOM - L-R Patricia Graft, Anne Berger Stietenroth ’61, Charles Graft III ’61

J.M. WHITE DINING ROOM - L-R Bill Stietenroth, Ben Gardner, Bill Bond ’49, Jane Simmons Bond ’49

OAK ALLEY PLANTATION

NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM
Calling to say Hi

Bob Hoagland ’54 called your editor September 3, 2017 to say hi to his classmates on our mailing list. Bob says he’s “still around – alive and well – at 82” in Charlotte, N.C. Sadly, his brother Bill Hoagland ’58 died in 1991. Their sister lives in Silver Spring, MD but is 16 years younger than Bob, too young to have attended HHS.

A Family Visit to Heidelberg

From Clare Downey Graham ’61 on August 12, 2017:

I know I’m late, but thought I would send along a few photos from my family’s visit to Heidelberg at the end of June. We spent two days there before heading to the Danube for a riverboat trip. We visited the Schloss and had a great lunch at Zum Roten Ochsen. It had been closed when we were last there in 2007, but was open for business and felt very familiar.

While there we met a historian who works for a museum in Stuttgart. She lives in Heidelberg, however, and is working on a project related to the U.S. military presence in the area, especially post WW2 to ‘70s. She was researching the guest books at the Roten Ochsen. She said she had heard of the plans to create a museum in the Campbell Barracks/Mark Twain Village area.

On our second day in town my sister, daughter and I took the Strassenbahn to the vicinity of HHS. Sadly everything was quite inaccessible, surrounded by high fences and full of weeds. We found no way to gain access to anything familiar. Hopefully some improvements will occur going forward! [Yes; see the update on page 7 of this issue. Ed.]

Top and right, at the Red Ox on the Hauptstrasse. Above left, Perkeo’s great wine barrel at the castle; Clare is in the middle.
Michelle Lowe Solis at ml5604a@gmail.com wrote us on November 4, 2017: Hi Jan, I thought I’d share a photo of a painting that my grandmother bought when she was in Heidelberg. My dad, Stan Lowe ’51, has been receiving your newsletters for years. He passed away in 2013 and I’ve been receiving them since. I certainly enjoyed the story of the rediscovered painting [by Myra Elias in our fall 2017 issue].

Updates from HHS Early Years

From Jacqui Robinette Davis ’48: Hi Jan. Please change the address for Carolyn “Cookie” Akin Gray ’48 [see New Addresses in this issue]. She and Jim recently moved and she wanted to be sure she got her next copy of the newsletter and asked me to provide this info to you. Moving can be a royal pain! Cookie and I have been big buddies in school and all these years thereafter. Anyhow, all of you are doing a wonderful job and I know Joan would be so pleased. I do enjoy the newsletter even tho I don’t know many anymore. Thanks.

From Dee (Diane Doran) Cairns ’57 (August 14, 2017): We have been living in San Antonio, Texas for two years. What a great city! Now we have decided to move back to Montgomery, Alabama, into our 6th house here! Considering we started off our marriage in Selma, Alabama, for 5 years, we really feel like Sweet Home Alabama folks. Dee [See New Addresses in this issue]

From Rose Anne Krupinski Bockman ’54, November 2017: Although I have enjoyed reading the newsletter all these years, I think it’s time to save you the time, energy, and postage, and remove myself from your list. I was a student at Heidelberg for only one semester before transferring to Kaiserslautern, and the only students I remember from those days are now, sadly, gone. I was close to Glenda Casey Petrini (’54) and Joan Schubert Hunter (’54), both of whom lived in Heidelberg, and my roommate for that one semester was Ann Fernald Collins (Stuttgart 1954), with whom I remained close until her death in March 2015.

I have lived in Colorado Springs, CO, since 1955; this was my Dad’s last station, and I remained after his retirement. I was married for 37 years to Bill Bockman, a CPA, until his death 18 years ago. We have three children, and four grandchildren whom he never met.

Thank you for the years of including me in your newsletter. Rose Anne Krupinski Bockman (graduated from Kaiserslautern in ’54), 1116 Rainier Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80910, mommybockman@yahoo.com.
Fall 2017 Stuffing Party at Morris and Jo Pelhams’ Home

On August 11, 2017, we gathered to stuff the Fall 2017 HHS Early Years Newsletter for mailing. Garry Roosma ’53 and Jill Carson Roosma ’54 joined us on their way home to Vermont from a trip visiting friends – including several from HHS – and relatives. As they folded, stuffed and stamped, Garry and Jill wrote notes to some of their classmates before sealing the envelopes. Below left, folding, addressing, stamping, stuffing and sealing (L-R): Dave Murphy ’53, Rita Wycoff Zener ’54, Jan McLin Clayberg ’59, Garry Roosma ’53, Jill Carson Roosma ’54, and Jo Pelham; below right, ALL DONE (with Morris Pelham ’61 at far right); bottom, at lunch at the Tyber Bierhaus afterward. Anyone from HHS is welcome to join us at our monthly second-Friday lunches and twice-a-year newsletter stuffing parties. The memories and news we share are always a treat.

An Amazing Story, Recalled by Paul McLin ’61

Jan, did Robert Kuhel ever get on the Heidelberg roster? [No; does anyone know where he is now? Internet searches have not found him. – Ed.] He is still in the Erinnerungen as a sophomore (class of 1960) in the ’58 book. The way I remember the story is that an armed robber got in the Kuhel home and had his father with a gun to his head. Bob surprised the robber and himself no doubt. The robber was going to have Dad Kuhel drive to the bank and open the vault, so he told Bob to come along. The Kuhels kept a gun in the hall bathroom, so before leaving, Bob asked if he could use the bathroom, whereupon he stuck the gun in his pants. Driving to the bank, with the robber in the passenger seat, and Bob in the back seat, with Dad driving, Dad swerved his car when he saw a military police jeep coming the other way. The robber brought the gun to Dad’s head and Bob shot him in the temple, killing the robber instantly. Very famous incident, front page of the Stars and Stripes for two or three days, and later being the story of the year. I think 1956, but it could have been 1955.
Musical Memories from Heidelberg

by Jan McLin Clayberg ’59

Sylvia Cottingham Smyth ’56, Judy Wright Hays ’58, Carolyn Thune Knutson ’58, and Linda Hornbuckle Hunter ’59 in the 1950s, Jeri Wright Baldwin ’59 and her husband Ron in the 1970s, and I in the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s – and no doubt others in HHS Early Years – all sang with Günter Mohrig and his wife Christa. He was the Protestant chapel choir director and organist at Patrick Henry Chapel from 1955-1978, and she was a soloist in concerts there and all over Germany. I vividly remember hearing their Mozart Requiem at PHV chapel in early 1956 and wishing I could sing it too. I joined the choir that fall. A recent article in local newspapers in Hockenheim, Schwetzingen and Mannheim celebrated the 50th anniversary of Günter’s founding of the Sing- und Musikschule in Hockenheim (I lived in Heidelberg again then and took my 3 little kids to its concerts) and the Mohrigs’ musical lives. As Maria Herlo, who wrote the article, observes, Christa Mohrig, now 91 (I was at her 90th birthday celebration in 2016), is an elegant, gracious, and knowledgeable guide to this rich history. The Eritrean children in this 1981 photo of the Christmas concert of the Sing- und Musikschule were part of a refugee family sponsored by the Mohrigs. Today, they (now parents themselves) and their parents and Christa are sponsoring a new refugee family from Eritrea. The article is archived at morgenweb.de by its title “Der Hunger nach Kultur war sehr groß” (“The hunger for culture was very great”). If anyone wants a translation of the article, I will make one.

Photo © Mohrig

Heidelberg American High School Finds a New Purpose

Rich Bennett ’66 (who also taught and coached at HHS for decades) came to our DC-area HHS lunch on February 9 and updated us on developments at our old school. HHS closed in 2013 but now is to be dedicated as a German school in March 2018. Rich will be there for the ceremony. Some details Rich sent on February 14, 2018: “Jan - It was nice meeting up with the Early Years. I always learn something new. Here’s the info on the dedication of the Julius-Springer-Schule from our former HHS at 1300, Friday March 16, 2018. Former HHS teachers/students who might be interested in attending are receiving invitations from the mayor of Heidelberg. This vocational school was relocated to HHS since it was basically a sound structure with a lot of good working parts obviously. I think the cost of renovation was 12 million Euro, or about $15 million. It is a vocational ed school for the ages 16-22 and is taught in 4 languages: English, Spanish, Italian, French which is part of their philosophy of business advancement. Their website lists all their vocations taught and it is quite extensive. I have also included an updated version of the history of HHS.”

That history is now posted on our website, hhsearlyyears.com.
Rich sent us this photo of a Heidelberg city bus, showing its destination, the new school.
The fences of so many years around Mark Twain Village are now down, and if we are ever in Heidelberg, we can all drive past our old school again.

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Two classmates, class of 1963: Joan Reading Asboth and Carol O’Pry Phillips at the Morikami Museum and Gardens, Delray Beach, Florida, December 23, 2017

New Addresses

Dr. George Urch, faculty, 18 Highland Circle, Hadley, MA 01035-9744, geurch@educ.umass.edu
Carolyn “Cookie” Akin Gray ’48, 90 Allen Road, Apt 15, South Burlington, Vermont 05403
Grover Maurer ’50, 5314 County Road 465, McKinney, TX 75071-00814, 972-370-2448
Harold C. Lyon ’53, 140 Bear Island, Meredith, NH 03253-7400, 603-520-1214, haleyon@yahoo.com
Dave Murphy ’53, 640-303 Dominion Terrace, Purcellville, VA 20132, 703-349-9445, drm12345@earthlink.net
Joseph Zingale ’53, 1894 School Street, Moraga, CA 94556-1753, 925-513-7093, JoeZingale@aol.com
Robert C. Finkenauer, Jr. ’54, 220 Conant St., Apt. 320, Danvers, MA 01923-2589, BFinkenauer@aol.com
Roger Horst ’54, 15005 Cuberra Lane, Bonita Springs, FL 34135-8653, 301-279-7589, roghorst@aol.com
Jack E. Morrison ’54, 11324 Macon Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407-3716
Fred Sladen ’54: new physical address: 10 Morgan Lane, North Sutton, NH, 03260 (NOT a mailing address!); new mailing address: P.O. Box 424, North Sutton, NH, 03260; 603-526-4321, fwsladen@gmail.com
Catherine Thorman Mease (widow of Glen Mease ’54), 317 North State St., Unit 1, North Vermont, IN 47265-1419, 936-828-3129, CThormin@aol.com
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Donna Egolf Lovy ’59, 27 Stallion Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 9027
John Ford ’60, 3767 Russett Maple Ct., Dumfries, VA 22025, texlaw70@aol.com
Beth McMurtrey Hipps ’61, 2103 Birdie Lane, Bryant, AR 72022-6733, 501-947-0232, kamosnana@hotmail.com
Ric Kautz ’62, 102 Merchants Way, Martinsburg, WV 25401, 302-436-4247, rkautz01@comcast.net
Bryan Harvester ’65, 1636 Napanee St. NW, Palm Bay, FL 32907-8027, 813-899-2171, lamplightpop@yahoo.com
Katherine Knudson ’65, 7330 53rd Street CT W, University Place, WA 09467-5009, kathereinkudson@earthlink.net
Keith McCarty ’65, PO Box 4003, Glen Allen, VA 23058-400, pamonwwweb@yahoo.com
Lost and Found

**Lost** (last known location): **BJ Tullington** Adams ’47 (Huntsville, AL), **Carol Crone** Blasingame ’54 (Gainesville, GA).

**Found:** **Barbara Johnson** Bowers ’50, 7809 Prestwick Circle, San Jose, CA 95135, and **Joye Emerson** ’64, Seattle, WA, imspunky@outlook.com.

DEATHS IN THE FAMILY

From Lucy Hladecek, August 19, 2017: Dear Jan, I have always read the Heidelberg High School Newsletter (Early Years). I wish to inform you that my husband, **Jim Hladecek** (’53), passed away on November 3, 2015, at age 80 after nine years of five different cancers, all of which went into remission, except for the last diagnosis, in which squamous cells invaded his lungs, and he was no longer able to breathe.

Jim’s family lived in Esslingen for several years; his father worked for the Red Cross. After Jim’s graduation, the family moved back to the San Francisco Bay Area.

In the fall 2017 issue, I read that one of Jim’s class friends, **Bill Schoonover** ’53, died in May 2017. Jim often talked about Bill; he considered him a very good friend. In one reunion we attended in San Antonio, I was able to meet Bill. All of us from that class danced to the music of that era (e.g., “How Much is that Doggie in the Window”? We thought that was hilarious dance music!

In one of his classes, Jim occasionally came up with rather creative (but zany counter-productive ideas), such as turning in homework on toilet paper rolls. He and Bill thought that was funny.

We have always appreciated hearing the news about Heidelberg High. Thank you for your faithful efforts to help the graduates stay connected.

**Larry MacKusic** ’53 died on March 22, 2017 in Davenport, Iowa. His wife Pat called us last August. Larry graduated from West Point in June 1957 and married Pat the next week. He is survived by their two daughters and a son, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He retired as a Lt. Col. after 29 years in the Army, which included service in Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and Germany. His obituary tells us he was “a student of military history and an avid reader. He also enjoyed gardening, trap shooting, golfing, and his many dogs over the years.”

**Charles (Chick) Williams** ’55 died January 30, 2018 of pneumonia. He was healthy until very shortly before he died: His last blog post was on January 17. In his blogs he told stories of his days as a Pan Am pilot (his book *Winds Aloft: A Pilot’s Diary* was published in 2004); his daily “wine time” feeding of blue jays and squirrels (he came to know them as individuals, and they ate boldly from his hands); the exploits of favorite friends and relatives; his successes and rare failures as a cook, and especially his wife, to whom he was powerfully devoted. His sister Anita says, “For almost 4 years, Chick drove 40 miles a day one way every single day to spend a large part of the day with his wife who was in an Alzheimer’s care facility. He took her healthy treats he knew she would like, played her favorite dance music, held her hand, and told her he loved her. He was my hero.”

**Karen Heinlein** Henson ’57 passed away in early March, 2017. Her husband Jim sent the sad news: “She was wheel chair bound and was in an assisted care facility. She is no longer in constant pain.” Your editor remembers her from Heidelberg as a very bright and lovely person. (For science fiction fans: Yes, Robert Heinlein was her uncle.)

**Walter Ray Tindell** ’58 of Temple, Texas died in December 2016, and **John P. Knierem** ’59 of Pipersville, PA, died July 29, 2017. We have no further details about them at this time.

**Pat Adler** Robinson ’63 died on October 30, 2016 in Florida. Her friend **Bob Badger** ’62 sent us the news on September 15, 2017.
Lester Noble ’65 died July 11, 2017, in Grapevine, Texas, the victim of a tragic fishing accident on Grapevine Lake. He is survived by his wife Catriona, their two daughters Nicole and Tina, and eight grandchildren, and his three sisters and four brothers.

Les joined the United States Army at 17 and declined officer training to join the fight in Vietnam, where he was embedded with a team of South Vietnamese soldiers tasked with clandestine missions. After Vietnam, he served in the Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and screened for explosive devices at national conventions for multiple presidents and dignitaries, including Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter and past Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Margaret Thatcher. For his exceptional work in the United States Army, Les received numerous awards and accolades, among them the Meritorious Service Medal for “heroism in the face of imminent danger on flight 406 which was hijacked, where he carried an injured person to safety under the threat of the plane blowing up.”

He and Catriona met in Greece, where he was then stationed, over 46 years ago and were married on September 12, 1970. He was a loving husband and exceptional father. After retiring from the Army with over 20 years of service, he joined the Grapevine Police Department and was the founding member of the Grapevine Bomb Squad. He loved to tell stories about his time with the Police Department, to include the infamous boat chase on Grapevine Lake and the nude runner. After retiring from the Police Department, he was still not done protecting the public and became a driving instructor. He was famous for scaring kids to get off their cell phones and pay attention to the road.

Les loved America and would routinely remind his wife’s entire English family how the United States beat the British in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. He was rough around the edges, but everybody loved him. As kids, Nicole and Tina were told that if something hurt, “Well, we can take ya out back and shoot ya”. His grandchildren lovingly received the same treatment. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Hope for The Warriors http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org/about/make-a-donation

Donations

Since the previous issue of this newsletter, generous donations to keep the newsletter coming have arrived from Coach Venne, Ed Hook ’51, and Bob Hess ’52. Thank you, all!

Photos above are from the HISTORY OF THE HEIDELBERG AMERICAN SCHOOLS sent to us recently by Rich Bennett ’66. It is now posted at www.hhsearlyyears.com.

This newsletter was founded in 1983 by Joan Dickson ’58, who edited it devotedly until she died in 2006. Glenda Casey Petrini ’54 succeeded her as editor until her own death in 2007, and Jan McLin Clayberg ’59 has edited it since then. HHS Years Newsletters since 2003 are posted in color on our website, www.hhsearlyyears.com.

Please send items for the next issue by August 10, 2018 to janclayberg@gmail.com or by mail to Jan McLin Clayberg, 5316 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA 22207, or call me at 703-533-0333 (landline) or 703-501-7307 (cell).