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For

[Saigon Kids and American Community School](#)

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**The Bamboo Beacon
Newspaper
American Community School
Saigon, South Vietnam**

The Bamboo Beacon was the first newspaper (following the former newsletter The Foxy Chronicle) of the American Community School. The first issue was published on Friday September 15, 1961. It continued to be published every two weeks during the school year, until the school's closing in 1965. The newspaper reported school news, social events, sports, a book corner, feature articles about South Vietnam, original poems, and humor.

Originally The Foxy Chronicle and Bamboo Beacon circulation included only the High School (grads 9 – 12). In November 1961, subscriptions were extended to the 7th and 8th grades, and their representatives were invited to join the staff.

The Bamboo Beacon usually consisted of six double columned pages. The copy was typed and run off by hand on the school's ditto duplicator.

The name Bamboo Beacon was selected by the staff in hopes the name would symbolize to the students a staunch light ever ready to serve them.

This book contains copies of the original Bamboo Beacon newspapers, saved by Burton Parker, who served on the staff.

Below are:

Vol. 1, No. 1 – September 15, 1961

Vol. 1, No. 1 (should be No. 2) – October 6, 1961

Vol. 1, No. 3 – October 13, 1961

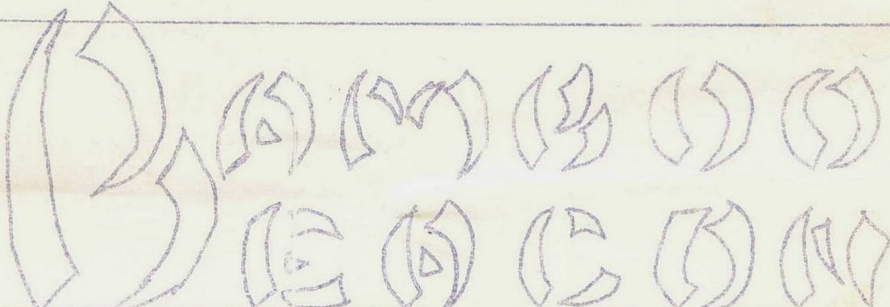
Vol. 1, No. 4 – November 3, 1961

Vol. 1, No. 5 – December 7, 1961

Vol. 1, No. 6 (not marked) – Christmas Edition 1961 (not dated)

I'm sure you'll find them very interesting reading. Enjoy!

Note: Use the 'zoom in/out' tool at the top on the tool bar for easier reading.



Published by the American Community High School

Saigon, S. Vietnam

Vol. 1 No. 1

Friday, September 15, 1961

EDITOR RESIGNS

Ann Fox, former editor of your paper, has resigned for personal reasons.

Written applications for the new editor are being accepted by the staff. Bobbie Sheehan, acting editor, has announced that the appointment will be made in the Staff meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 20th.

We urge all of you, who are interested in becoming editor, to apply now. Turn your copy of application in to Bobbie Sheehan.

Bamboo Beacon New Name

BAMBOO BEACON is the new name elected by newspaper staff for its twice monthly paper.

It is hoped that the name will symbolize to the students a staunch light ever ready to serve them.

The very appropriate art work of the new title was designed by Karen Walker one of A.C.H.S.'s outstanding juniors.

CARNIVAL

Gecko Benefits

The Carnival is under way. Bobbie Sheehan, entertainment chairman, Dini Hazlem, her assistant; and others are all working hard.

The booths have been chosen from grades 1-12. They all look good and are sure to be a success. The Student Council, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts are asked to participate.

Right now the committee is busy making "chits", which you will buy before entering the Carnival and will use them in place of piasters.

The high light of the Carnival will be the "Talent Show", which will take place afterwards.

The Carnival will be held on Nov. 4th; so save your piasters now, and don't miss the fun.

Science Club

Has Moon Meeting

Members of the Science Club brought their lunches Friday, Sept. 8, to school to enable them to use the School facilities for their first experiment.

The club is sponsored by Major Burton F. Parker.

STUDENT COUNCIL

And what does on in the Student Council Meetings? Something new comes up at every meeting, and so does something old --- like, for instance, smoking. Motions are made and passed and, you guessed it, motions are made and vetoed. These meetings are quite normal and ordinary.

As you all have, undoubtedly, noticed, we have received our Activity Cards. What's the yde of explaining them if you already know what they're for? Just keep them pretty and safe and show them at all high school affairs.

Pretty soon now, we'll all be getting creaked about the coming Rainbow Dance. The Student Council has been working valiantly on it and will be forever discussing it --- up to the last minute; so I'm sure it will be a howling success. It will be held the first week in October; so, get your dates (especially if you have outsiders in mind) and you activity cards all lined up.

This will be one of the Student Council's "smaller affairs", with just refreshments and the, by now, musty decorations which were to be used for the last and nefar Rainbow Dance. So, come along --- all.

The Student Council has decided unanimously to have it's own booth, at the Carnival. That's it going to be? I wonder, too.

Just one more thing now. Don't forget to stay faithful to the BAKE SALE. Our high school needs that money.

Karin Walther

Report from South Vietnam

You have no lead, if you have been down town in Saigon recently, crowds of people milling around down by City Hall. It is a display of Viet Cong arms captured in the "Dong Tien" operation in July. Out of sheer curiosity I went in. The police only let in about 300 people at one time so when it was my turn I stumpled along with the rest of them.

Beyond these the whole rear of the hall is taken up with the guns, printing presses, and other implements actually captured. What impressed me the most was the fact that a lot of the guns were hand made out of old pieces of tin and hand carved wooden stocks.

Along the walls on either side are pictures of the battles, the capturing of many enemy officials and of the mutilated bodies of both sides. All these with a little cards near by telling what is happening in Vietnamese, French, and fluent 17th century English.

All this was very interesting, but to top it off, just as I walked out of the building a military band on a raised platform just outside struck up "When the Saints Go Marching In".

Frank Surhan

EDITORIAL

Pride in School Environment

Are you one who throws spit balls, pencils, cups of water, and so on? Or is it you who puts his feet all over the school's white walls? Are you ashamed? Well you should be.

There will come a time when you will want to show your school to the public and be proud of what you are showing; well, how can you if these small crimes are not stopped?

Let's have a "clean-up day" every day from now on, so we can be proud of what we have. If you see paper lying around, PICK IT UP. If you see black footprints on our walls, get a cloth and clean them off. If you are walking down the hall and you see someone being a litterbug; stop and ask him if he realizes what he is doing.

Honor your school! Be proud! Keep it clean!

Bobbie Sheehan

SOMETHING NEW

This year we are going to have a Cheering Squad for our softball team, and with the student body support we hope it will be a success. We want our boys to win, don't we? Let's yell our boys to the biggest victory known.

The first meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10:00-11:00 in the morning, at 145 Yen-Do, Apt. 14. We have things to talk over. Do you want Cheer Leaders? Do you want to wear school colors? What yells are we going to use? What are we going to do for transportation to and from the games?

We must get going---hope to see

see you all at our first meeting.

Thank you,
Heather

Littlefield Gift

George Littlefield, the big man with an even bigger heart, has given all the J.D.I. a football equipment to Larry Smith. Larry says that the equipment will be used by the Teenagers in the coming season. Many thanks to George for the equipment and for all the things he has done for the American Teenager.

SQUADS

The Teenagers hope to secure the coaching services of Sgt-Maj. Yeager, for the coming softball season. Ken, as he likes to be called by his protégés, did a spectacular job last season with the Teenagers. He took a lifeless team and turned it into a hustling one. Results came quickly as the Teenagers won the first game that he coached for them. Being a lifetime referee in the States, his knowledge of the game of baseball is unquestionable. Attention was passed around to secure signatures to persuade Sgt-Maj. Yeager to take the job. We hope he will accept it.

Father Crawford also did much for the Teenagers last season. He kept the players in good condition by having practice sessions every other day. This was in those days of freedom when the school was open for only a half-day. Father taught us a plenty.

SPORTS, cont. p. 3

deal of the fundamentals of baseball. He is quite a ball player himself, and last year's players will remember.

However, it seemed that Ken knew better how to make use of the things that Father taught the Teenagers. He literally activated the players during the games. A hustling team has a better chance of winning; and when a team that has been losing begins to win; it hustles even more.

From The Grapesvine

Last week the high school enrolled a new boy. This week two new boys appeared upon our breezeways. This is good for the girls. Let's hope there are more coming. We wish they weren't so shy though.

The Science Club is going strong and the students who are participating in this club are enjoying it.

The Gacko Carnival which was supposed to take place in December has been put a month ahead of schedule due to the Achievement and College Board Entrance Examinations. Now the Entertainment Chairman and the Assistant are putting in extra efforts to meet this new schedule. Students are being asked to cooperate—may their willing response continue.

Miss Seemore

The BAMBOO BEACON is published twice a month at the American Community School by the High School.
A subscription: \$0 V. 1.
Acting Editor: Bobbie Sheehan
Business Manager: Ruth Matheson

STUDENT INTERVIEWS

Michael Nelson

Just a couple of weeks ago a new boy named Michael Nelson came to Saigon from the state of Washington. He'll be here for two years. His favorite sport is baseball. He's a Freshman and fourteen years old.

Maile Miller

Another Freshman is Maile Miller. She's been in Saigon since August 6, fresh from Fort Monroe, Virginia. Her favorite subject is English and her favorite sport is basketball.

WHO?

Her last name starts with a S,
Her first with a B;
She's a real cute sophomore
With plenty of pep.

We like her a lot.
She's a whole bunch of fun.
Do you know who it is?
Well, guess everyone!

Cathy McIntyre

(Answer: Page 5)

P. T. EVENTS

Last Sept. 9 there was a party called the Teenagers' Ball. After a dinner of: Shrimp cocktail, Soup, Steak, Beans, French fries, and Pie, there was dancing until about 12:30 when the party was over; this did not end the fun for some, though.

APPRECIATING THE WONDERS

As we walk along the beach at night
 We wonder what the sea is like;
 The starry sky and other things;
 We wonder what the future brings.

So much of life to understand,
 As we walk along the beach, soft sand
 If this feeling we have, be it must
 Changes small things in life to dust.

The stranger it is, the more we are thrilled
 It frightens us so we are chilled.
 So reckon life, we must not try;
 It is our duty to live...to die.

The sea is strong when it beckons us,
 But it is calm as we have our trust.
 The sea is our friend we made it that
 way;

Forever our souls, we joined today.

The sky is full of mystery,
 It looks at us, so small to see.
 The stars are tears on the face of the
 sky,
 As it remembers the fears of the people
 who cry.

We are much more aware of our lovely
 earth,
 For gladly we receive all of its worth.
 It gives to us our life indeed,
 For what are we but just a seed.

The sky, the sea, the earth are ours:
 Luckily are we to have these flowers.
 We must train ourselves, our very soul:
 Appreciation is our goal.

Sept. 2, 1961 Ricky Grunany
 Mhatrang- Noble Sheehan
 S. Vietnam
 (WHO? Noble Sheehan)

BOOK CORNER

Starting next issue, Mrs.
 Sabatini, our librarian, will provide
 for our readers an article con-
 cerning the library. She will keep
 posted on the arrival of books and,
 in general keep us posted on what
 our library has to offer us. Next
 week she will present a brief his-
 tory on books in her new "Book
 Corner".

THE G.D. I LEFT BEHIND ME

She is my love,
 Angel from above,
 And my love.

I hope soon--history,
 With little mystery,
 That she's my destiny.

In all creation,
 There's no imitation
 Of my infatuation.

She acts so mild,
 And is so styled;
 She drives me wild.

She's so loveable,
 So delectable,
 But imperfectable.

She is magnificent,
 But yet intelligent;
 And she's so innocent.

Only one date
 Sealed my fate
 Now I wait.

She's in the States,
 There she waits,
 Her love unabates. B.G.I.

FAST EVENTS cont.

Last Saturday the Malone sisters
Had a party at which everyone enjoyed
themselves, especially Lance.

C.M.

LOVE LORN COLUMN

Dear Miss Seemore,

How can I forget a boy? I have
tried everything but nothing seems
to help. At parties I end up feeling
sorry for myself, so I just don't go.
I'm becoming a refugee from manhood--
and I don't like it. What can I do?

Still remembers

Dear Still Remembers,

Snap out of it and quit feeling
sorry for yourself. What really is
happening is that you're hurting your-
self all the more since you are not
really trying to forget this boy.
Be sociable and start going out with
the girls and BOYS. Play some sports,
go out on a picnic. If there aren't
any boys to date do something with
the girls. Mix in another group.

Miss Seemore

Dear Miss Seemore,

I like a girl very much. How
will I ask her for a date? I'm a
very shy boy.

Shy Boy

Dear Shy Boy,

You're going to have to get up
your nerve to ask her for a date.
Then, when she seems like she's
interested in you, ask for another
date. It isn't really that hard.

Miss Seemore

SILLYS

Sixteen
Sees and laughs,
Listens and sighs,
Sleeps and eats,
Aches and hates,
Stretches and lives,
And hopefully waits.

Carolyn Cahalan

BAKE SALE
ANOTHER SELL-OUT

One of the more lucrative
ways of earning money for school
activities is our BAKE SALE.

Before 10:00 a.m. at the Tues-
day Sale, everything was gone--
popcorn balls, cookies, cakes, and
candies. Complaints from the
hungry students who were turned
away without a morsel are an in-
vitation to have a bigger and
better sale--soon!

C A L E N D A R

High School Assembly	Sept., 15
Fep Squad (10:00)	Sept., 16

Gecko Echo	
Record H p (8:00 p.m.)	Sept., 16

Science Club (7:30 p.m.)	Sept., 20
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MOVIES

The White Knight	Sept., 15
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The Wizard of Bagdad (8:00 p.m.)	Sept., 16
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Gecko Echo

Published by the American Community High School

Saigon, S. Vietnam

Vol. 1 No. 1

Friday October 6, 1961

NEW HOURS ?

The new hours affecting grades 3 through 12 are: 7:30-11:45 and afternoon session from 2:00 to 4:00. Also suggested are the hours 7:30 to 11:45. With the program we have now there are 29 hours in one semester. This is with the hours 7:30 - 1:45. The last year's program has 21 hours and the newly suggested hours make 28 3/4 hours in one semester.

If you students want the school hours changed, tell your parents about what you would like and give them your reason. You would be surprised how much weight you will carry with them.

At this date there are 62 students enrolled in the ACHS; 35 are girls and 27 are boys.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Since the last newspaper came out the Student Council has had meetings, and there will more.

Many things have been discussed at each meeting. After lots of arguments and time-consuming talk about the Gecko Echo Club, it was decided that outside dates would be admitted, one person; one guest and a fee of 10V.P.S. We will be allowed one night party every two months, or possibly every month; but the rest of the Gecko Echo activities will have to be held in the afternoon.

So, we had our first activity on Saturday night. Unfortunately, it was branded a failure by the majority of students. That's too bad. It could really be a lot of fun if we put our minds to it. Before one can really enjoy an activity such as this, one has to make up his mind to like it --otherwise he won't, one can be sure. The Gecko staff hopes to see everyone at the next Saturday afternoon meeting, and let's thank them that we do, at least, have this opportunity.

Cont. page 2.

At the high school student body meeting, the first thing discussed was school behavior. There had been complaints regarding certain demonstrations of affection, and so from now on there will be no hand holding inside the school grounds. There's nothing wrong with handholding, but it is not in good taste at school; so there just won't be any.

Also, the garden walls are not places to sit. Stay off the walls, and sit elsewhere, please.

The item that brought the most discussion at the meeting—school hours. Coming into effect next semester, school hours may be from 7:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. or may follow some other plan. The majority of the high school students want these new hours, but to be able to gain them is partly up to us. Let's let our voices be heard.

R.S.

EDITORIAL

You know, there is such a thing as school spirit, even in the American Community High School of Saigon, Vietnam. This school is the nucleus of our lives over here. Try to imagine what it would be like without the activities our school provides for us!

In the first place, it is a place of education. That insures our future. It is a meeting place for all the teenagers. That insures our present happiness. And it is producing the many memories that make up our past.

Think of some of those memories. How many of them had to do with school? And just think how many more you would have, if you supported your high school in all its activities. "Enthusiasm" is the key word here. Join in the parties and clubs put on for your benefit. And be enthusiastic about it!

FEATURE ARTICLE

The week after Labor Day is the annual open season for back-to-school parties. "Here I come from and in many places across the country, teenagers hit the road for the nearest beaches, lakes, and summer resorts for the most exciting weekend of the year.

Boys and girls from all over my state trek to the beaches at Charleston, just as hard as the kids did to Ft. Lauderdale. My friends' letters like it was as much fun this year as it was last. They went to parties, swam and skied, for three days and nights. Last year, the girls all stayed in a house on the beach and the boys lived in a shack right next to it. This year the boys didn't even bother with the shack.

There are three beaches in Charleston, and on all three, pavilions hire well known bands for the weekend. They begin at 12:00 P.M. and keep going till 3:00 in the morning. This year, just like last year, by 9:00 they were full and people were dancing

on the beach and in the streets. When the pavilions close, everybody starts the rounds of beach parties, lunas, and breakfasts. This goes on until Sunday afternoon and then, just as they came, they leave, already planning next year's blast.

So "Y'all come to the H-O-T-of-the-Summer Riots!"

P.D.

FLASH: GECKO EMERGENCY

The Gecko staff had an emergency meeting at the request of Mrs. Jones, to decide whether we would have the Gecko Echo Club or not at all.

Most of the meetings will be in the afternoon, but we may be able to have one in the evening every now and then. That hasn't been decided yet.

At the afternoon meetings, box lunches will be sold, games can be played, or there can be just a general get-together.

Pictures from all the Gecko parties can be bought from Sarah Bush in Mrs. Lowell's room. Go spend yo' money, People!

The Gecko staff is working hard to make the Club a success. Give it your support!

(From page 5)

Listen to me now;
For this I will vow:
Ever the great sea's brow
Will never, to man, bow

P.G.P.

SPORTS

Hey, gang, get your vocal chords in shape, as the soft-ball season is coming up.

This past Saturday, the guys (20) got together and grabbed the whys and wherefores as to the organization of the team captain and co-captain.

Larry Smith was elected captain and Steve Johnson his co-captain.

According to the Coach, there will be either 25 or 40 games for each team to play to complete the season. Last year the schedule called for 27 games.

After the meeting, Larry and Steve and the Coach priced uniforms at local sports stores. They purchased socks and shirts with blue and white to correspond to the school colors. The shirts will sport "A.C.H.S." on the front and the numerals on the back.

Sorry, fans, but it's the way it must be.

The stands for you, and the dug-out for me, -- or in other words, Special Services asks that the fans please sit in the stands and leave the dug-outs for the players.

We expect to see all of the kids out at the ballpark when the season starts. We want the ones that aren't playin' to be cheerin' and the ones that aren't cheerin' to be playin'. I think that pretty well covers everyone.

SEE YOU AT THE FIELD.

Ken Yeager

STUDENT INTERVIEW

Steve Johnson, a mighty senior and last but not least, our Student Council President, in a recent interview curiously fought off most of my leading questions with very stimulating, thought-provoking answers. An example of one is his remark when I asked him his advice to the young. He countered, "Live fast, die young, and make a good-looking corpse".

He has been in Saigon since Sept., 1960, and will be here until July, 1962. This is his first timeout of the States, and he says he likes it. "While I'm on the subject, he thinks we're the best bunch of kids he's ever been with."

His father is the director of the Ford Foundation. Steve has been accepted by Grinnell. His majors, he says, will be Political Science and Window Keeping.

From here on I sort of hit him with questions about our school. The main thing that irritated him was the "people that complain and then are never willing to pitch in. For instance, with bake sales, the suggestion box, with school dances, and with the soft-ball team." His opinion of the security problem was that the parents and the school officials overestimated this problem.

He suggested that the school needs more school spirit, more support for the soft-ball team, and more feature articles in the newspaper.

The few personal questions that I asked were about hobbies, favorite songs, etc. He said his hobby was collecting records (our people's), but we know better, don't we, Stevie boy? His favorite song is "Dum Dum" by Brenda Lee, and the person he admires most is Franklin D. Roosevelt. His pet peeve is "people that spend all their time at cocktail parties tearing down American teenagers".

We did slip one sneaky one in that Steve thought we had missed. His opinion of himself. "Nobody loves me; but I think I'm pretty neat."

F.D.

SOCIETY COLUMN

Parties:

The first Gecko Echo Club meeting was held at the Smiths', 177 Phan- Ding- Hung, on Saturday 9. Not enough of the high school kids attended! The next Saturday, though at Steve and Jeff Johnson's, we had our second party. There was a better turnout at that one since members could bring dates. (If you haven't already done it, why don't you pay the monthly dues and join?).

Friday, September 22, will be a date to remembered by many of us because it was the night of Ebbie Sheehan's party. Seems like everybody was in a good mood and had fun.

Last Saturday 30, the Cacko Echo Club had a party at Jean Ibbetson's. Box lunches were auctioned off.

Don't forget the Rainbow Dance on Oct. 7. Come on, boys, get a date and hurry before it's too late!

C.M.

Take out your hankies, girls. The infallible Frank Durban is now off the eligibility list.

Terry Coleman has been seen making eyes at Susie Hunt.

That's this I hear about Jeff and Lynn.

One Freeling Clower has caused quite a stir among the female population of ACHS.

David, you had better keep your chain wrapped around Miley; she flirts.

Mary Ann Matteson's crush has turned into love. "Bo's fault?"

Hey, Barbara, was that J.R. I saw you chasing yesterday? I thought he was Kathy's.

The substitute we had for Mrs. Powell Ted. made quite an impression. Please, Mrs. Lowell....no more trips to Pha Trang?

Let's all gang up and make Ken play the drums in the talent show.

What? Karen's had Kittens?

We are wondering if Frank and Lance had fun Friday night. Better ask Frank, huh, Lance?

Hey, girls, hang on to your boys. There's competition a'comin'.

Looks like the word "repet" on the ACHS Activities board sank some people. Was that Fred I saw in Sunday School last Sunday?

WAYS TO GET (OR NOT TO GET) A DATE FOR THE RAINBOW DANCE

1. Go steady
2. Walk around with a sign saying, "I don't have a date."
3. Bring up the Dance every time you talk to a boy.
4. Set snares and bear traps around your desk, and don't let a out until one asks you.
5. Douse yourself with the latest perfume---"Screaming Passion".
6. Ask him.
7. Get your mother to speak to his mother.

SEA

The seas are blue;
Gulls always over flew;
Her beauty is true;
Beware, she is ugly, too.

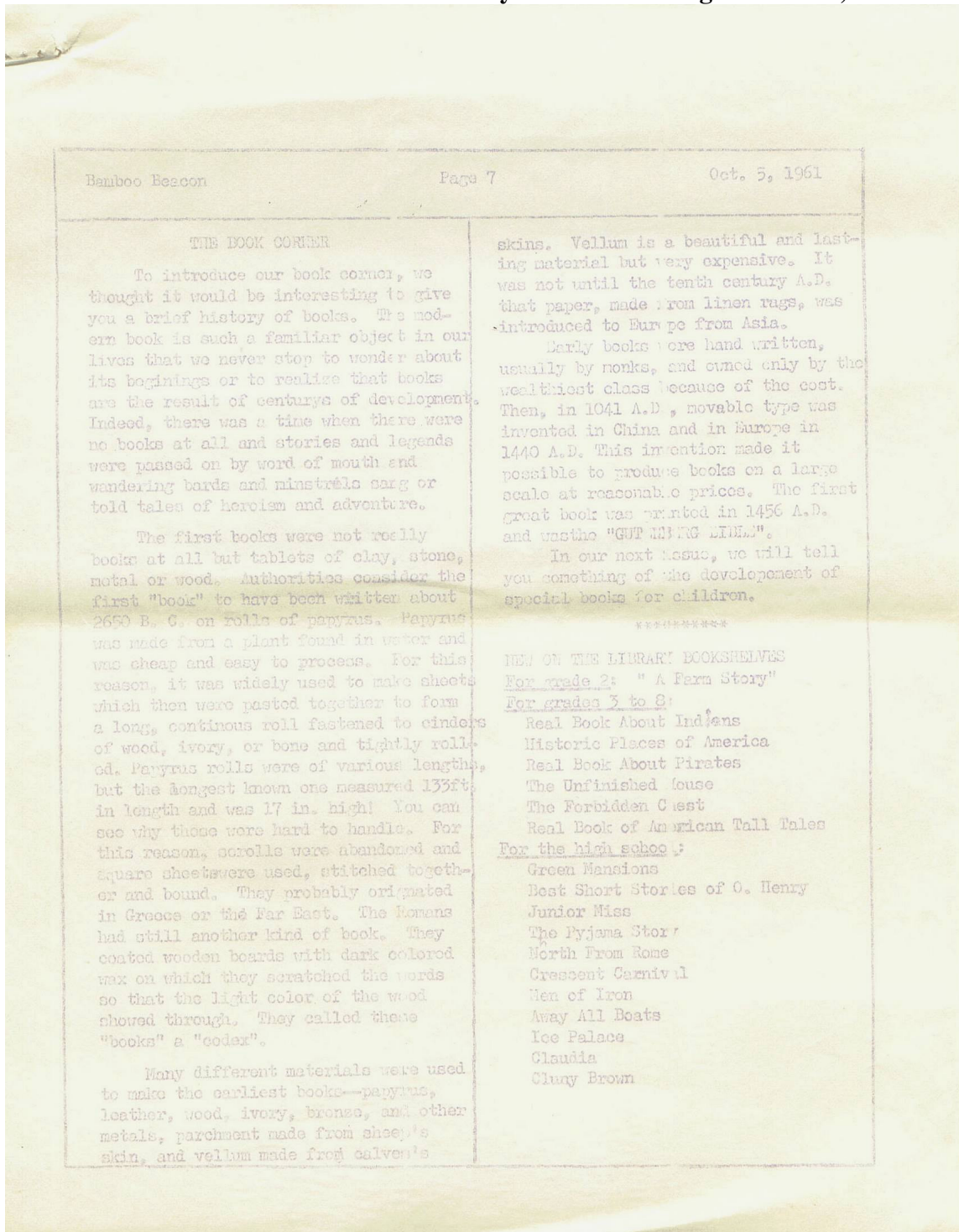
The sea's a woman.
Her anger vented, when
Some insult there has been.
Then she calms again.

The sea dealt with the "Titanic",
With acunning little antic.
She sent an iceberg---gigantic---
For to cause the people panic.

So when the sea, man defies,
There from her flies
A token of respise,
And man's mast----dies.

To p. 3

Note: Numbered and dated incorrectly. It should be Page 6 – Oct. 6, 1961



Hammond Gecko

Published by the American Community High School
Vol. 1 No. 3.

Saigon, S. Vietnam
Friday, Oct. 13, 1961

MISS MARY DALE ARMISTEAD

Congratulations to Miss Mary Dale Armistead and Mr. Philip Foster, upon their marriage; and to Mrs. Armistead, a well liked grade school teacher, who is the lucky mother of the bride. The wedding dress for the beautiful bride was exquisite, Mrs. Armistead!

K.W.

HONG KONG

On Thursday, September 28, five of the teenagers left Saigon Airport for Hong Kong on a special flight. They were: Angel Wesselhoff, Ann Fox, Kris Walther, and Sarah and Barbara Bush.

They came back loaded down with goods in the evening of October 5. It seems that they had a lot of fun. Don't you wish that you could have gone too?

C.M.

GECKO ECHO

After next Saturday if there is no more enthusiasm toward the club than there has been, in all probability it will be disbanded. We have found that it is too much work to put out for the amount of support we get.

If you want this club to continue everyone of you must give us your support on Saturday, you hear?

TALENT SHOW

The high school try-outs for the Talents Show after was a roaring success. Exactly three people turned up: Bobbie Sheenan, The Chairman of the Talent Show; Dini Haznam, her assistant; and ~~me~~, who reported on it.

VIETNAM

During the past few months headlines back in the States have ranted and raved about the "Red Attack Fears in South Vietnam".

The people back home are naturally worried. I keep receiving letters from friends and relatives asking me when I'm coming home. They keep wanting to know what's happening and if it's as bad as the newspapers make it to be.

Well, what I gather from what I've read is that although they, the editors don't agree on a specific date, they do seem to stick to two main points. The first is that the Communists will try to set up a rival government to Diem's in northern South Vietnam; and the second is that the invasion will come from both the Laos and North Vietnamese borders. One article, by Fred S. Hoffman, said that the Communist guerillas were bringing men and supplies into Vietnam over the five main trails from Laos and also from a big base in "neutral" Cambodia. On the other hand, he says that the U.S. has just stepped up its flow of communications gear and other aids to help ward off the "rash of Communist raids."

In another article, Robert S. Allen and Paul Scott stated that Ho Chi Minh's 300,000 man army (compared to Diem's probable 170,000 man army) was now armed with the latest Soviet equipment, i.e., heavy artillery and rocket-firing guns. They also said that if nothing happens between September 17, the date of the national elections in West Germany, and October 21, the opening of the Soviet Communist Party Congress in Moscow, nothing will happen for at least three or four months.

From all these sources and the many rumors, it sounds as if something is going to happen after the rainy season is over. According to these same sources, it doesn't seem that the situation can stay as uncertain as it is much longer, but as one expert said, in the case of invasion, "I think the South Vietnamese will be in a bad way, but they can hold their own."

F.D.

GIVE THEM A CHANCE !!

Whether it's an argument about the baseball team, the failure of the Student Council, or complaints of the smoking rules, there are always some students that start criticizing our principal and School Board.

I don't think some have really sat down and thought of the innumerable ways our principal have tried to make our high school a better one, more stable place to spend our school hours....that's one thing that many of us seem to forget: that school is for studying. But our principal and school board have displayed such a profound and true interest in our welfare (they have even invited students to the Board meeting), that they have taken pains and hours of hard work to try to establish a healthy and enjoyable extra-curricular activity program—something never even attempted in the history of ACHS. The members of the School Board give up many personal enjoyments not because they have to, but because they want to help the highschoolers establish the closest thing possible to high schools in the States.

Cont. p. 7

STUDENT COUNCIL

The meeting of the Student Council was called to order by Steve at 7:30 A.M. on the ninth of October.

The issue of outsiders for dances was brought up. In order for an outsider to enter a school dance, he must have a special card issued to him by the school. The deadline for these cards is four o'clock on the Friday before the dance. If a student brings a guest who does not have a special card will not be permitted to the next school dance. If this rule is violated twice, the student will not be permitted at any more school activities.

Plans are being made for the Christmas Dance and it is hoped that it will be around the sixteenth of December.

There was some discussion on who should be members of the softball team. The team has always been for all the teenagers, but this year some of the students feel that it should be left to the high school students only.

The Student Council believes that the team should be for high school students since there are more boys in the school this year who could play and since the seventh and eighth grade are getting a team of their own. The uniforms for the team is being paid for by the school. If a player drops off the team, he will have to turn his uniform back in to the school.

The meeting was adjourned by Steve at 8:00 a.m.

Ruth Matteson

SPORTS

Last week, the Boy's Softball Team was fitted for their blue, white-stripped trousers. The group of boys met at Sgt. Yeager's house last Wednesday, Oct. 11, and from there proceeded, not exactly ensemble, to the tailor of Ngo Dinh Hoi. The front of the jerseys boast a white AGHS, and the large numbers on the back range from 1 to 20.

Last Saturday, Oct. 14, the team displayed an unusual amount of courage by gathering at the field near the airport at (groan) 9:00 a.m. We limbered up and found out what bad shape we were all in. "Please Sarge, not another lap around the field!"

With better uniforms, a better field, a larger variety of players, and a good coach, this year's team has a good chance of clobbering last year's record.

FLASH: Tuesday, Oct. 10, room #3... very important meeting for boys in session. This was a grand debate on whether or not the boys will play on their own Teenagers' Team or on the school team.

With debate still ringing in the air, the meeting was adjourned by Larry until Friday, Oct. 13, a day of "indignation and bad luck"; this should be very interesting.

Everyone be sure to keep posted on the leading football teams. They are listed on the bulletin board.

Football games on the radio can be heard irregularly during the week at the lunch hour. Tune in AFRTS Shortwave for Los Angeles on the frequencies of 17.5, 91.55, 15.3, and 11.95 megacycles.

David Henry

CONCERNING THE QUESTIONNAIRE

At the Student Council meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12, Steve explained the questionnaire that had been made up to present to the students. This questionnaire asks a series of questions concerning the activities of the high school and opinions and suggestions for making our high school years in Saigon a more enjoyable period of time. It is sincerely hoped that this questionnaire was taken seriously and with good cause and common sense.

SOCIETY COLUMN

Remember What was going on Saturday, Oct. 7? Well, if you don't, it was the Rainbow Dance. The decorating committee fixed the place up; it really looked nice. We sure were lucky that it didn't rain. If it had, the party would have been pretty miserable since it was on Heather's roof.

We were chaperoned by Mr. and Mrs. D.W. Harris, Capt. and Mrs. Seely, and Dr. and Mrs. D.K. McIntyre. Mr. and Mrs. Rodrique came up for a little while. Some of the couples that went to the dance were Barbara Bush and Steve Johnson, Randy Seely and Sarah Bush, Lynn McIntyre and Jeff Johnson, and Karen Walther and Frank Durham.

C. M.

FROM THE GRAPEVINE

The high school has grown from 45 students to about 65 students in the past few months. The girls of ACHS wish a few more new boys would come.

Remember! Finals are coming up. Better drag out the books and blow the dust off. Ugh!

Rumors are going around that there is a good-looking boy coming to school. Keep your eyes open, girls.

Who's I.D. has B.O.P. been wearing lately?

If that was J.R. leaning against a truck outside the school grounds Wednesday, who was he hoping to get a glimpse of?

Has D.H. really broken up with the little freshman girl?

Dave Queen will be leaving our happy little high school in a few weeks. Fred Bonner might go, too. Wish those boys weren't leaving since we all do like both of them very much.

ACHS would like to welcome Shiela Keberline, age 14, of Washington, D.C., Arlene Ames, age 14, of San Francisco, California, Randie Lawrence, age 14, of Washington, D.C., and Sara Schug, age, of San Francisco.

Welcome, again, girls. We're happy to have you and we hope

~~you like it here.~~

THE BOOK CORNER

We discussed the beginnings of books in our last issue and in this issue we want to tell you something of books especially written for children and young people.

Some of the first known books for children were called "hornbooks" because they were simple little wooden paddles on which were pasted lesson sheets. These sheets were covered with transparent horn and in general were to teach the child his letters. There still exists a little hornbook supposedly used by Queen Elizabeth. These were not very entertaining.

Next came the "chapmen", the peddlers of the 17th and 18th centuries, with news sheets and "chapbooks" sold along with various trinkets. "Chapbooks" were cheap little books that could be bought for as little as a penny. They ran from 16 to 32 or 64 pages and usually were not stitched together but merely folded. The stories were the kind that children have always liked - tales of adventure and heroes.

At the time, a highly religious movement was getting underway and out of this came some gloomy children's literature dwelling on death and religion. One great book did come out of this Puritan world, John Bunyan's (1628-1688) "Pilgrim's Progress" which is read by children today in a modernized, briefer form.

In the New World, hornbooks were referred to as early as 1646 and the famous "New England Primer" appeared in Boston around 1691. Again, the emphasis was on the dreary, with long discussions of toms and tortures.

It remained for the French to introduce gaiety into children's literature and around 1697 the well-known

These tales soon spread to other countries and other languages and are beloved by children to this day. The "Mother Goose" was printed in England in 1729 and was followed in 1765 by the first juvenile novel ever written expressly for children, "Goody Two Shoes", which supposedly was written by Oliver Goldsmith. Another famous children's book which emerged from the Puritan era was "Robinson Crusoe" by Daniel Defoe, published in 1719 when Defoe was sixty years of age. In 1726, Jonathan Swift wrote, "Gulliver's Travels" which has been adopted by children although it was intended for adults.

Again, the French changed the course of children's literature from the sad and morbid with the publication in 1762 of Rousseau's, "Emile". "Emile" was a carefree fellow, the gay companion of his tutor, free of all books except "Robinson Crusoe". Unfortunately, perhaps, writers following Rousseau turned back to moralizing in children's literature, best exemplified by a lady named Maria Edgeworth (1767-1849) who wrote some of the first books for children which contained real plots and were first-rate storytelling. Our own American contribution to this kind of children's books was Martha Farquharson (1828-1909) who wrote 26 volumes about a pious little heroine who was either fainting or crying continuously, by name of "Elsie Dinsmore".

And so it is not until 1822 that we come to the first of the modern books for children, gay, entertaining but instructive. Then came many fine books-- "A Visit From St. Nicholas" which is known to children everywhere as "The Night Before Christmas" and in 1865, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland".

Cont.

and many others right up to the present day when beautifully illustrated, interesting books for young people come off the presses daily.

New Books on the Library Shelves

High school:

Bird of Sorrow by Romaniello
Track of the Cat by Walter Clark
David Hakim by Wescott
Magsaysay Story (biography)

Grades 4 - 8:

Wagons Westward
At the Foot of the Rainbow by Porter

STAFF

Editor	Vicki Greenamy
Assistant Editor	Bobbie Sheehan
Business Manager	Ruth Matteson
Feature Editor	Frank Durham
News Editor	Karen Walther
Society Editor	Cathie McIntyre
Literary Editor	Mary K. Malone
Sports Editor	David Henry
Typist & Pressman	Burton Parker

The Russian Theme Song: You'll wonder where your father went if he talks about the government.

Goofy Gab

Imay look busy - but I'm only confused.

I'd like to help you out - which way did you come in?

Keep your eye on the ball, your shoulder to the wheel, your ear to the ground - now try to work in that position.

This work is interfering with our coffee break.

Don't go away mad - just go away.

I'm not in the habit of forgetting a face - but in your case I'll make an exception.

I'm fairly intelligent myself - but I have a lot of stupid help.

Flattery will get you somewhere - start talking.

Before you louse everything up - THINK!!

DAFFYNITIONS

Lid of your cave - door of your office

Antsville - place full of people (Saigon)

Don't blow your jets - don't get excited

Pile up the Z's - sleep

Chlorophyll George - a dollar bill

Like his heels were on fire - in a hurry

Mushroom people - people who come out at night

Want the horses stabled - want the car parked

Friday, Oct. 13, 1961

cont. from page 2

They spend these hours of hard work because they want to help us.

If we use our heads, I'm sure we will discover that these adults don't want to limit us in any way, but that they want to give us the opportunities and experiences which all high school students should have. Instead of rushing

ahead to criticize our principal and the School Board or any decisions that they might make, we should think of the reasons, the real reasons, behind these decisions. You'd be surprised how very much these adults really know about teenagers.

If some of you readers have not been here for at least a year or more, ask one of the "old-timers" about our high school last year, or the year before that, and you'll really be thankful for all the efforts and work that have been in our behalf this year. Instead of giving the School Board and our excellent principal our unthoughtful misunderstandings, misinterpretations, or whatever they may be, we owe them our utmost, our deepest thanks, gratitude, and co-operation for all that they have done for us.

K.W.

SCIENCE CLUB

For the past few weeks, the Science Club has met at the Parker's house to perform what experiments it can. Early experiments had to do with hydrodgen. Later ones drifted into sulfuric acid and sulfa. Everyone seems to be enjoying it under the direction of Maj. Parker. Please note the Science Club bulletin board in the back of room 2. Minutes of the meetings will be posted there every Thursday.

B.P.

GOING STEADY

He says: Will you go steady with me?

He thinks: I'll kick your head in if you don't.

She says: Yes, I'll go steady with you.

She thinks: What can I lose.

He says: Here's my class ring.

He thinks: It's beginning to turn my finger green anyway.

She says: I'll get you a friendship ring.

She thinks: He'll probably lose my class ring.

He says: I'll give you my Hi-Y pin tomorrow.

He thinks: I hope I can get it back from Shirley.

She says: You don't have to give me your Hi-Y pin.

She thinks: He probably can't get it back from Shirley.

He says: I can't believe we're going steady.

He thinks: At least I've found someone to do my homework for me.

She says: I was surprised you asked me to go steady.

She thinks: I was running out ~~of~~ of hints.

He says: Say you'll never break up with me.

He thinks: I'll break up with you first so I won't be embarrassed.

She says: If you ever want to break up with me just tell me. I'll understand.

She thinks: HA!

TODAY IS FRIDAY THE 13th.

BEWARE!!

SAIGON COMMUNITY

Published by the American Community High School

Saigon, S. Vietnam

Vol. 1, No. 4

Friday, November 3, 1961

ANNUAL CARNIVAL TALENT FOOD FUN

OUR WORLD

RUSSIA TESTS 50-MEGATON BOMB

Nov. 1, 1961-- The entire world is shocked and angered over Russia's test explosion of its 50-megaton bomb.

NATIONAL DAY

Here in Saigon, the People and President Diem commemorated the 6th anniversary of their republic on October 26.

Flags could be seen flying from every shop (con't. page 2)

POPULAR SISTERS LEAVING SAIGON

As we all know, two of our best liked girls, Cathie and Lynn McIntyre are leaving us to go to the Middle East.

They depart today for a one month tour of Europe. Then they will go to the States for one month.

The McIntyre family will live in Bagdad, Iraq, for about 1 1/2 years but Lynn and Cathie will go to school in

(con't. page 6)

ALL SCHOOL EVENT

The Carnival will be this Saturday afternoon. The fun begins at 2:30. At 5:00 there will be a TALENT SHOW. The festivities end at 6:00 p.m.

All classes from the 7th grade through the 12th will have one or two booths. The students are working very hard. Great arrangements are taking place; for example, the Seniors are planning to have a marriage booth. Sounds like fun, huh?

At the entrance there will be students selling chits. You are to buy these with piastres and to use them in place of money all afternoon.

There will be plenty of food for everyone, hot dogs, candy, drinks, etc.

The feature of the afternoon will be the stupendous TALENT SHOW. Lots of good talent has shown up so don't miss this for anything.

Come along!

There'll be fun, food, and lots of prizes!

OUR WORLD cont.

and from private homes. They could be seen waving in the wind on the tops of taxicabs and cyclos. These beautiful gold colored flags with their three red stripes graced all the public buildings.

Due to the cancellation of the National Day parade, there was not much noticeable celebration in the city.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

The semester examinations will be given from Nov. 13 to 17. Each student will get a copy of his individual test schedule. All students are expected to take their tests as scheduled.

NEW SCHOOL HOURS

The new school hours will go into effect Nov. 20. The hours will be from 7:30 to 1:15 Wednesdays included.

THE BOOK CORNER

National Book Week will be celebrated this year from Nov. 1 to the 7. We at the American Community School will share in this celebration and the Home Room Mothers have organized a series of book sales to raise money for new library books. The sales to raise money will be as follows:

Oct. 31 --- 1st & 2nd grade
9:30 to 9:45 a.m.
Nov. 1 --- 3rd & 4th grade
10:05 to 10:25 A.M.
Nov. 2 --- 5th & 6th
9:45 to 10:05 a.m.
Nov. 3 --- 7th, 8th, & high school

10:25 to 10:45 a.m.

National Book Week

Slogan

Go Exploring in Books

Explore the world! Discover why plants whirl about the sky. Make new friends and meet new faces. Read of far-off places, golden places. How people live, how fairies look.... All the world is in a book!

Betty Miles

Some new titles on the library shelves:

Best Short Stories of Somerset

Maupassant

Great American Heritage (Biographies of the 5 Eisenhower brothers)

The Magsaysay Story (Biography of ex-1 resident Magsaysay of the Philippines)

A Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne

The Townsman by Pearl Buck

Leony by Pearl Buck

Scaramouche by Rafael Sabatini

Cluny Brown by Margery Sharp

The White Elephant Booth is Sponsored by the Bamboo Beacon.

A girl we know stuck herself with a broken phonograph needle, but she says it doesn't bother her at all, at all at all.

REPRESENTATION STRESSED

It has been decided (from the requests of several students) that class representatives are to take a more active part in representing their home rooms in the Student Council. After each meeting, each representative will give a report on the meetings, and be responsible, also, for representing their home rooms at the Student Council Meetings. If there is anything a student would like brought up at these meetings, it is requested that he should speak to his homeroom Student Council Representative, who will, in turn, bring up the point in the Meetings, which are on Mondays and Thursdays of every week. The representatives are:

Freshman class- Lynn McIntyre
Sophomore class- Heather Harris
Junior & Senior class-
Ruth Matteson

The Student Council is looking for an assistant Treasurer. Anyone interested in the job, please sign the notice on the Bulletin Board. Every application will be carefully considered.

The Freshman class ought to be thinking about a good class representative to take Lynn's place when she leaves us.

Unfortunately, we have to postpone plans for our Christmas Dance until we know more about the new regulations that have been passed keeping large groups of people from assembling at social affairs.

The boys have got their baseball outfits completed and are really looking forward to the games. And the girls are trying out for cheerleading the week after finals.

In the Assembly there were three things stressed:

(1) The Bake Sales - Now that we've discussed the bake sales, we now are hoping for a better turn out and hope that all those who raised their hands in support of continuing and supporting bake sales will help in the promotion.

(2) The people riding on buses will get off their buses at scheduled stops.

(3) No more smoking in the bathrooms -- GIRLS!

Karen Walther

THREE ART EXHIBITS

There are three Art Exhibits in downtown Saigon.

The Saigon International Photographic Salon is being shown at the Ministry of Information Display Rooms at the corner of Tu Do and Le Loi.

An exhibit of Student Art work is being shown at the Alliance Francaise at Gia Long.

There is also an exhibit by Vietnamese artists in the City Hall.

These exhibits are well worth seeing. Since they will be depending on public interest, it would be advisable to go early and show your appreciation for these fine cultural achievements.

Don: Who was the redhead I saw you with on Friday?

Ron: The blond I was with on Thursday.

DEAR EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I don't think there is very much courtesy shown to the girls or the teachers in this school. When the bell rings to go to another class, the girls usually get trampled by the boys. What is it that makes it so important for them to run like crazy, I don't know. But the boy could at least stop for a second if a girl is by him and let her pass first. Sometimes a boy and a girl try to get through a door at the same time. One person has to give, so naturally, it is the girl. Why can't the boys show they can be gentlemen when they want to be. In the classroom, if the teachers papers blow off the desk onto the floor, most likely they will stay there if she doesn't pick them up herself.

On the bus quite a few girls were waiting to get off when, all of a sudden, like a streak of lightning, a boy came darting down the aisle to get off.

I'm not saying all the boys here aren't gentlemen, but a few could brush up on their manners. We should all of us try to be a little more courteous to one another and to our teachers.

Mary Ann Matteson

Dear Editor,

The last edition of the Bamboo Beacon was a stupendous success. I would like to congratulate you and the staff.

I have a suggestion to make,; why don't you put some advertisements in the newspaper? You could mention some good places to go for good food,

good tailors, airlines, and parties. Early, you could mention some downtown movies-----if they are in English.

Another idea (for your gossip section) you could write on some of the "steadies" (ask girls about their B.F.'s and vice versa).

Kris Walther

Dear Kris,

The Bamboo Beacon would like to have paid advertisements but we cannot because our circulation is too small.

On the subject of steadies, any items would be welcomed by contributors.
Editor

BAMBOO BEACON SALES

Due to the request for extra copies of the Bamboo Beacon, by some of the students, the newspaper will now sell its extra copies for five piasters. If you do not have a subscription, now is your chance to get the paper. They will be on sale starting Tuesday October 31. You can get your extra copies from Ruth Matteson.

Ruth Matteson

NOTICE:

The Bamboo Beacon will be in abeyance until after exams.

"Mommy, mommy, daddy just poisoned my kitten."

"Don't cry, Dear, maybe he had to."

"No he didn't; he promised me I could."

BASEBALL SCHEDULE TENTATIVE UNIFORMS COMPLETE

The members of the softball team were presented the last part of their uniforms early this week.

With the distribution of the blue trousers there followed a noisy procession to the boy's room to try them on. The purchase of the uniforms found voice by draining the treasury to a scant \$8,000 (V). Total bill for the 20 pairs of socks, 20 jerseys, 20 trousers: 6,500 Piaster or about \$85 to \$90 U.S.

Now some facts about the coming season: The first game is scheduled for Dec. 5, 1961. The season will continue well into May, 1962. This is a longer season than last year; more games are to be played, 35-40 this season compared to 27 last season. However, the number of players allowed per team has been increased. This means that the rise of playing hours per team member will be stunted to a minimum. No games are scheduled for Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, double headers will be played during weekdays.

Schedules of the coming season are hoped to be distributed by Nov. 25. The season will be played and divided into three rounds. All-Star games are to be played. The team is expected to be briefed on all these things soon.

For all those who participate, this exercise will provide at least a small amount of physical education which most American boys don't get here and which they would, were they in the States.

INDONESIAN SOCCER TEAM

Veering away from ACHS activities, we want to recognize the Indonesian soccer team that came to Saigon. After losing the soccer game 1-3 to Vietnam, the players had a party at Haznam's, Wednesday. The Indonesian team is still one of the best in the Asian league and we wish them the best of luck in future games.

D.H.

GIRLS HAVE PEP SQUAD

The girls have cooked up a cheerleading club. Thanks a lot, girls, for the team will need all the support it can get. This promises to be a long, hard, and we hope, victorious winter.

CHEER LEADER TRY OUT

The date set for the girls Cheerleader try-outs is November 23.

We would like to welcome Larry Smith back to Saigon. He was in Hong Kong 5 days. Larry is one of the Baseball Teams chief run-rods.

And then there was the fellow who fell into a lens grinding machine and made a spectacle of himself.

A mummy: An Egyptian pressed for time

THE LAST ECHO

For the people who didn't come to Dimi's Saturday, the Geeko-Echo party was pretty much fun. After the box lunches were sold, for staggering sums of money, I might add, everybody either sat around and read "Demain the Menace" or danced. The meeting ended up in a wild, uninhibited game of tag.

People, those of you who are leaving, hand in your new addresses to Sarah Bush and she will see that your annual is sent to you.

F. B.

NEW FACE ABOUT AGHS

Bill Wagner, a Junior is the latest new arrival. Welcome, Bill! He comes from Cedar Falls, Iowa.

SISTERS (continued page 1)

Beirut, Lebanon.

Cathie says she has learned quite a bit from living in Saigon, one thing she came out ahead on was her French. She was Society Editor of the Bamboo Beacon. She definitely does not want to leave Saigon because she thinks the kids are nice and she will miss us... "especially one boy."

Lynn was Student Council Representative for the Freshman class, she feels the same way about leaving us. She thinks we are the best bunch of kids she has ever known.

When Ernie was asked to comment upon Cathie's leaving he replied, "I don't want her to go."

When Jeff was asked to comment upon Lynn's leaving he likewise replied, "I don't want her to go."

None of us want them to leave but we hope they have a wonderful time and will write to us.

Best of luck always, girls!

GRAPEVINE

What is this all about B. P. and Harry? A new couple arousing without us knowing anything about it.

Wish there were a girl for Fred Bonner because he really has been looking down-hearted these last couple of weeks. Girls! Start swinging, you know he is a wonderful guy.

How do you like the Indonesian teen-age boys that came to Vietnam to play soccer?

Miss Seamore

NEW SOCIETY EDITOR?

The Bamboo Beacon is looking for a new Society Editor. Anyone interested in this position is asked to submit a written application. The new editor will be elected by the newspaper staff.

JERRY AND DAVID

AGHS is quite itself again with David Helle and Jerry Hall back in their seats. Both boys have had recent bumps in the hospital. We welcome them back.

HAPPY FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Ninh are the proud parents of a son, their first child, born on Oct. 27. Mrs. Ninh is our wonderful school secretary.

Least said, soonest mended.

Robert Browning

Hammer News

Published by the American Community High School

Saigon, S. Vietnam

Vol. 1, No. 5

December 7, 1961

CHRISTMAS DANCE

Did you hear what I heard? The American Community High School is having a big Christmas Formal.

It will be held at the Cercle Sportif on December 16 th. The admission will be two hundred piastres per person. The Student Council is now in the process of planning the evening.

The Highlight of the evening will be the crowning of the King and Queen and their Court. On Friday, the first of December twelve candidates were elected by the students. They are as follows:

Queen Candidates - King Candidates

Sarah Bush	Fred Bonner
Barbara Bush	Steve Johnson
Karen Walther	David Holle
Vicki Greenanger	Ken Yeager
Bobbie Sheehan	Larry Smith
Randle Lawrence	Frank Durham

About two days before the dance the Student Body will have another election and from the twelve a King and a Queen will be chosen along with two Couples serving as attendants.

During the dance the King and Queen will rein for one marvelous evening.

It all sounds so exciting! We hope everyone in the High School will attend and have a wonderful time. B.J.S.

PEARL HARBOR

On Dec. 7, 1941, Sunday, 7:50 AM the U.S. was launched into World War II as Japanese bombers, torpedo-bombers, and Zeros attacked Pearl Harbor in what has been called the most successful surprise attack in history. The succeeding waves of aircraft brought complete confusion to ships and airfields for scores of precious minutes as the men struggled to comprehend the situation. Records are full of accounts of those struggling individuals who fought the seemingly impossible facts that confronted them. A man watched a plane dive from the clouds; make a perfect torpedo approach, drop the torpedo, and bank away. He simply watched the torpedo come in, after all the Navy flyers were just practicing their approaches as they were a few days ago; nothing unusual about that. Then the explosion came; and as he was thrown to the deck he, still thinking it a practice, yelled, "OH, my GOD! Somebody's gonna git h--- for this."

But when the men finally sensed the gravity of the situation, most, being more confused, dazed, and madder than they had ever been before in their lives, fought back as best as they could. A man stood on the deck of

Pearl Harbor (con't)

the battle ship Maryland"holding a 50 cal.machine-gun spewing bullets at any thing that flew.Then the barrel became too hot to hold he rested it on a railing and kept on shooting.Aboard one ship as a master-at-arms stood shooting his .45 automatic at the planes,men scrounged around and found a heavy machine-gun only to have the ancient (made in 1919)ammunition belts fall apart.Another man banged away at the enemy with a double-barreled shotgun.A sailor on the "Arizona"after searching frantically for a gun,could only hurl monkey-wrenches and curses at the enemy.

Ashore Zeros sprayed the masses of sailors attending the various outdoor churches.At Hickam Field the neat compact groups of aircraft(arranged thuslybecause of the fear of sabotage) were bombed to ruins.Not one plane left the ground.Damage to shipping was tremendous.Battleship Row,being the principal target was under fire constantly.

When the final Japanese plane flew back to it's air craft carrier it was perfectly possible to understand that the U.S. was now at war. One just had to look at the smoking ships, wrecked docks, and demolished aircraft the proud,mighty,Pacific

fleet had received a staggering blow it would always remember. In just four and one half hours the battleships Arizona, Oklahama and Utah were lost forever as the destroyers Cassin and Downes 188 planes and 2,403 persons. Over half of this number were killed when Arizona exploded. Out of the war for months were the battleships "West Virginia", "California" and the "Nebraska"; damaged were the battleships, "Tennessee", "Maryland" and "Pennsylvania"; cruisers "Helena", "Honolulu", and "Raleigh"; and destroyer "Shaw". The Japanese paid for this tremendous victory with only twenty-nine planes lost, one submarine, and five midget submarines; a total of about 129 men! But the Japanese underestimated the United States' power of recovery. Like a stunned giant she gathered her strength and fought back. But not until November, 1943, were the Japanese denied the offensive.

B.G.P.

NEW ARRIVALS

Jo Ann Brown;

From the interview I had with Jo Ann, our new senior, it seems to me she has a dynamic personality. Jo Ann ("Jo is not short for Josephine, please!") is 17.

NEW ARRIVALS (con't.)

Carol Hammond;

This girl hails from Ohio, is 14, and a freshman. Carol and Harvey Brown have one thing in common: their introversion, which is as attractive for them as Jo Ann's extroversion.

.....

We girls in Saigon never win. The minute girls leave the school, other new ones come in. The boy/girl population comparison still favors the boys, who like having all these girls around.

Anyway the ACHS heartily welcomes you to Saigon.

DEPARTURES

Radini Haznam has emotionally upset good friends because of her departure for Indonesia. We are going to miss that pint-sized bomb!

Ruth Matteson: What do you mean by graduating and leaving the rest of us grinding away at school work? Congratulations to this "A" student upon her graduation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 8 - Teenagers vs. Navy - 8:00 P.M.
movie: "The Big Bankroll"
8:00 P.M. Mickey Rooney, David Janssen - Alhambra

Dec. 9 - H.C. Comd. vs. Teenagers - 8:00
Movie: "Take the High Ground" - 8:00 PM
Richard Widmark, Elaine Steward - Alhambra

Dec. 16 - VAA vs Teenagers - 8:00 PM
Dec. 16 - Christmas Dance 9:00 - 12:00

GOSSIP

What is happening to Fred Bonner and Vony Haznam? Keep on your toes Fred.....

Once upon a time there was a cute couple named Randy and Maile. What happened?

Susie didn't want me to put anything in the paper about her and Jeff, so I won't.

Michele likes someone! We tried to find out, but still don't know.

Boys come and get your dates for the Christmas Dance. You'll have a lot of fun. You have such a variety of girls to choose from.....

It seems Bob and Randle L. have had some sort of disagreement lately.

Wasn't Haznam's party a riot Cheryl?

Who were you walking around the house with? Wayne?

Hey boys! Mary Ann Matteson is free again!

We are sorry to see two of our favorite gals go, Dini Haznam and Ruth Matteson.

Attention all kids! What's this I hear about Mrs. Rodrigue having a party Friday nite and Mrs. Powell having one Saturday just for us kids! How nice! How let's tell them.....

Frank was home with a cold, Karen's all shook up 'cause so many girls were coming down with colds.

The Matteson's party was a blast..... especially for Mary Ann S.....

Jean Ibbetson has found someone to watch over her. Rick who?

Jeff, who are you taking to the submarine races?

EDITORIAL

A Flea For the CHRISTMAS DANCE

Have any of you thought about why we are having a Christmas Dance? It might surprise you to know that this dance will celebrate Christmas. I realize it's a little hard to get into the Christmas spirit here in Saigon; nevertheless, it is nearing the end of December and high school students in the States are planning with great enthusiasm, their Christmas formal. They have many other activities in their holiday program, too; but their outstanding event is the Christmas formal.

Right about now a girl in Ohio is wondering whether to buy the expensive dress and wear her old heels or buy the cheaper one and have new heels to match. A boy in Texas is worrying about which girl he should ask. The girl in New York is crying because her favorite boy asked her a day after she had accepted her second favorite boy. The boy in Oregon is telling himself that he had better hurry up and ask her because she might become impatient and accept someone else.

Is anyone homesick now?

Well, if ever there were a time that we could make this a real State-side high school, it is now. And even though there isn't much time, it isn't too late.

Why don't we forget all the school politics behind this dance and celebrate Christmas by going to what we could make one of our most beautiful and memorable occasions of this school year.

Come on boys. Drag those dinner jackets out of the moth balls. If you don't have a jacket, this is the place

to get one. Remember, this won't be the only time that you'll be wearing it. And for heaven's sake don't be afraid to ask the girls. There probably isn't a girl in high school who wouldn't give her writing arm to be asked to the dance. Girls love to get all dressed up so they can make a grand entrance. And who can blame them?

This is Christmas. We can make it be a life-lasting memory or we can waste it. And the latter is something that should never be done to any Christmas.

V.G.

THANKS

We are thankful to the high school for letting us participate in their newspaper.

The Seventh & Eight Grades

8th Grade News

Ours boys which number 13 in all are organizing and encouraging a baseball team. They are being aided by two military officers.

Welcome:

We welcomed a new boy, Richard LeBlanc into the school on Tuesday, Nov. 28. He arrived in Saigon on Saturday the 25th, coming in from Hong Kong. He is from New Orleans, Louisiana and tells us that this is his first trip over-seas.

Welcome back:

Douglas Boynton has just come back from home-leave in the States.

8th Grade Gossip

There are no steadilies or steadies now. Candy Bush and Fred broke up on the 27th. Elvaria says that she doesn't like anybody but we think she is after Bob Miller or Fred Carpenter. Pat Schmitt now li likes Fred Crosby or is it Ticky Penson? Pat Crosby is after Pete Esterling but nobody can find out who Pete likes. Luanna Carpenter likes Bill Sheehan.

Farewells:

Lisa Rule is leaving in about two weeks to go back to the States. Pete Esterling is leaving on Dec. 21 for the States.

7th Grade News
Room 11a

At present we have 21 pupils in our class (11 boys and 10 girls)

In Math. we are studying percentage, especially: discount, commission, profit, and loss problems.

Nov. 17th we had a spelling match with the other seventh grade in which we won.

Each morning from 1:30-3:00 we have current events in which each pupil (who has an assigned day) brings in an article on World News.

At 10:25 each morning we have a "break". During this time we eat a snack and listen to a library book (Against the Wind), by Harriette-H. Carr.

MYSTERY!

The springtime, the twilight, the
vista.
Attracted a maid and a mist;

Honor Roll For Last Marking Period

1. Emmett Chandler
2. Gindy Winegar
3. Jean Carlon
4. Hiroo Mahtani
5. Kathleen Rule
6. Paul Shaffer

In order to be on the Honor Roll you must make all "A"'s and "B"'s including conduct.

The 7th grade (11a) greatly appreciates the work Mrs. Sabatini has done for our library and for the books she has ordered for us.

We have been adding to the decoration of our room with fish (18) and birds (1).

Qu'est-ce que c'est? (cont.)

Kris Walther: For clearer suntan use.

Ruth Matteson: Sell it at the bake sale.

David Henry: Noah Webster is off his rocker.

Arline Ames: Send it with best wishes to 'Frisco.

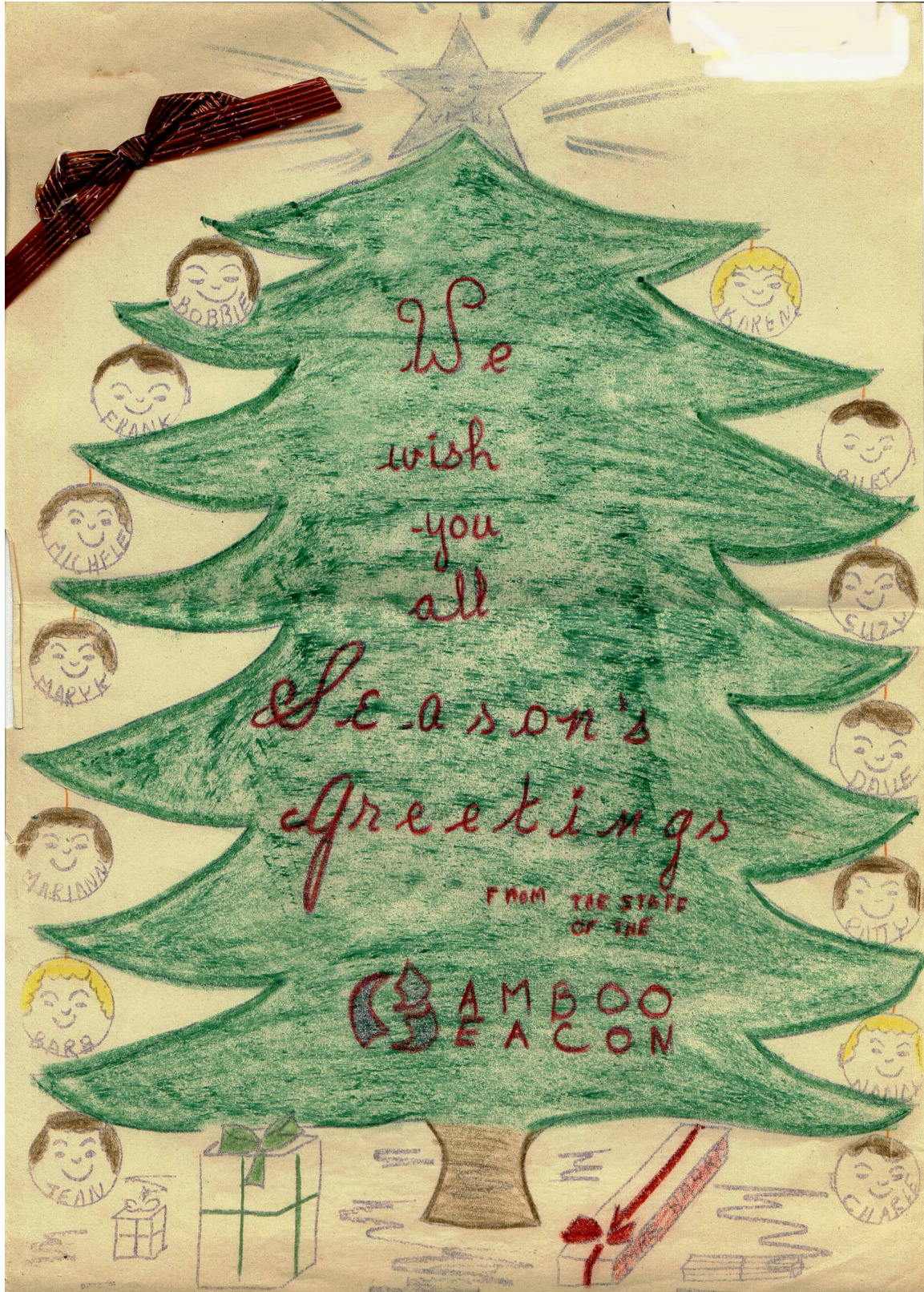
Steenie Fox: A rocket fuel; at least a chemical.

Steenie came closest to the correct answer because according to the dictionary, "methylenitan" is "a yellow substance obtained by heating tricymethylene with lime water". In plain English; it's a "BLOB".

Only 13 days left to get your Christmas shopping done in.

The foliage, tis true
Obstructed the view

But I'll bet the mista had kistta!



The annual Christmas Dance sponsored by the American Community High School was enjoyed by all who attended. The gala event took place at the main building of the Cercle Sportif Saigonnais. The room was effectively decorated with red and green crepe paper and twisted tin can tops.

The formal began with dinner at 8:30. Place cards were used to designate where everyone was to sit. The candidates for King and Queen and their dates sat at the head table. The menu consisted of hors d'oeuvres, salad, turkey, potatoes, Bombay ice cream and iced tea.

Finally the moment we all had waited for came. At 10:00 Brooks Toland announced the attendants and the King and Queen. The attendants were Randie Lawrence and Steve Johnson, and Karen Walther and Frank Durham. Brooks excitedly announced Bobbie Sheehan as Queen and Fred Bonner as King. They walked up to their throne to be crowned. Bobbie, who was wearing a beautiful blue dress with matching heels, was given a lovely bouquet of flowers. This was followed by an enthusiastic applause and the three couples danced to the King and Queen Waltz. The evening ended after one and a half hours of music and dancing.

Our chaperones were: Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Rodrigue. We wish to thank them for chaperoning our formal. We also heartily thank the decorating committee for the work they did, and Barbara and Steve for making all the necessary arrangements. All of them did a marvelous job.

As far as dress was concerned the boys wore white dinner jackets and the girls formal dresses. A few couples proceeded to Brodards afterwards.

S. L. H.

Christmas is the holiday on December 25, commemorating the birth of Jesus. The name, Christmas was first celebrated in the fourth century. Before this time only the death of persons had been celebrated.

The story of the birth of Jesus is a remarkable one. Jesus was born in a STABLE IN Bethlehem where Joseph and Mary traveled to pay their taxes. A star hung in the sky above the stable where He lay. Shepherds came to worship Him and Wisemen came great distances to offer Him gifts.

Many customs have come and gone into the making of Christmas festivities. The singing of Christmas carols is very popular in the Christmas season. The first carol is said to have been sung by the angels when the birth of Christ was announced to the shepherds. The practice of singing carols arose in imitation of this.

Sending cards is a way of expressing best wishes at Christmas time. It was first done in the nineteenth century.

Saint Nicholas, plays a big part in the Christmas festivities. At one time, Saint Nicholas secretly presented three maidens with bags of money so that they might be married. While leaving the money for the third maiden he was discovered by the father. From this time on, children everywhere have known and loved Saint Nicholas from whom they presents Christmas morning. In the U. S., he is known as Santa Claus. His appearance is very different from the way he appears in other countries. Instead of riding a white horse, he travels in a tiny sleigh pulled by eight tiny reindeer.

A common belief at Christmas time is that animals have the ability to speak on Christmas Eve. On this night they tell of their part in the birth of Christ.

The Christmas tree was first used in Germany during the time of Martin Luther.

Lighted candles, the Yule Log, holy, ivy and mistle toe are often used in the Christmas season.

Christmas customs are different in nearly every country yet the real meaning behind Christmas is always the same. The Christmas season is a time of praise, joy and peace for all.

and tomorrow was Christmas.

She had a good cry and then went to the mirror to fix herself up. Suddenly a brilliant shine came into her eyes. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its own length. It came below her knees.

Now, there were two possessions of James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch which had been in the family for three generations. The other was Della's hair.

On went her jacket and hat and she fluttered out the door and the stairs to the street.

Where she stopped the sign read, "Mme. Sofronie, 'Hair Goods of All Kinds.' One flight ran Della collected herself panting; 'Will you buy my hair?' After examining it, the madame said, 'Twenty dollars.' She spent the next two hours ransacking shops for Jim's present.

She found it at last; it was a platinum chain, simple and chaste in design. As soon as she saw it she knew it must be Jim's.

It was seven o'clock and Jim should be in she thought.

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious.

"Oh Jim don't look at me that way," said Della.

"You've cut off your hair?" Replied Jim.

"Cut it off and sold it. Don't you like me just as well, anyhow?"

Jim drew a package from his overcoat and threw it on the table.

"Don't make any mistake about me, Della. Nothing could make me like my girl any less. But if you'll open this package, you may see why you had me going a while at first."

With fingers white and nimble she tore at the string and paper. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then alas! A quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails.

For there lay the COMBS-the set of combs side and back-that Della had worshipped for long in a Broadway window. Beautiful combs, pure tortoise shells with jeweled rims. They were expensive combs.

She said with a smile, "Oh, Jim my hair grows so fast."

Della leaped up to get Jim his present. "Isn't it dandy, Jim? You'll have to look at the time a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want

watch to get the money to buy your combs."

The magi were wise men-wonderfully wise men-who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger.

And here I have related to you the story of two young people who foolishly had given up their two most precious gifts for each other.

This shows how sacrificing one can be for one you really love.

S. H.

CHRISTMAS to ME
I haven't enjoyed myself more than I did the other day since my own childhood. I went to the various grades and asked the children what they thought of Christmas. Some of the remarks and comments they made certainly made me believe that Christmas is 'at Christmas without the little ones.'

In the sixth grade I asked what does Christmas mean to you?"

"....a time to help poor people

"I think Christmas Eve is murder waiting for Christmas mourning!"

"....people CAN start fires when Santa comes down the chimney.

"....people believe in Santa.

"....you can exchange gifts.

"It means Christ's Birthday.

"....is a time for being happy.

"....decorate the Christmas tree.

"....getting out of school.

"....time for singing carols.

"....watching trees and people.

"....no homework.....

"I like Christmas 'cause New Year comes next and you can take your girl for a walk in the park."

The responses of the sixth graders were a bit more dignified and grown up than those in grades one and two. These children had a one track response, "Santa Clause!" Those little ones gave beautiful descriptions of the "little man with a tummy full of jelly" Many were pretty worried wondering how Santa was going to get to Saigon;

"He can't come in a sleigh, 'cause there is no snow so he'll come in his airplane then give presents in a cycle-mai."

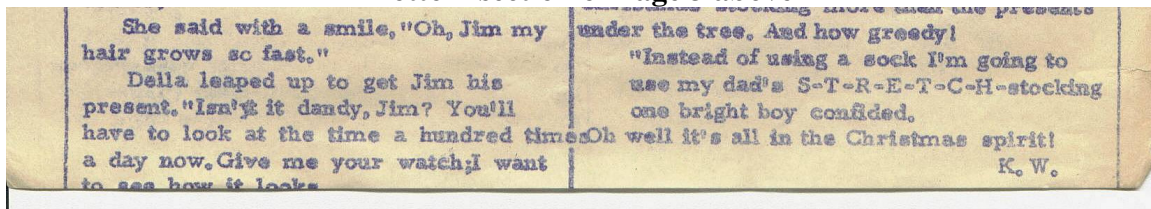
But then again some thought "maybe Santa will bring snow with him so his reindeer won't have to stay in the North Pole."

Little people seemed to enjoy the Christmas stocking more than the presents under the tree. And how greedy!

"Instead of using a sock I'm going to use my dad's S-T-R-E-T-C-H-socking one bright boy confided.

Oh well it's all in the Christmas spirit!

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Scroll down to Page 4

Questions For Santa

Our representative met Santa on his own ground the other day to see if he couldn't get the answers to a few questions sent in by avid readers....

Our first question was sent in by a typical high school intellectual reader who says: "Now that the Japanese are producing everything in toys on a tremendous scale for practically nothing, what sort of social and economic effect is it having on your little people?"

Santa: "Chuckle, chuckle, chuckle. Remind me to forget that fella's address."

Another of our raised-on-chicken-fat readers wrote in: "Since you don't pay the bill for falling through the roof last year, how do you like your subpoena?"

Santa: "Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas to you too!"

Another splendid mind queried: "What cha' gonna bring me for Christmas, ya big post?"

Santa: "Snicker, snicker, snicker, if you're a good boy and keep doing well in school, I'll bring you a great big bar of Lava so your mother can wash your mouth out."

Now this question really got down to brass tacks: "How do you explain the matter of all the toys and reindeer not crushing all the houses? Do you really land on the roof?"

Santa: "Well, we don't really land on the roof. We just hover over it. The reindeer just sorta sit there and flap their antlers or wave their legs, see."

"That's about all our questions for you, sir," said our interviewer. "Mrs. Santa Claus, do you have anything to say?"

Mrs. C.: "You bet I do! If that little man doesn't get home on time, I'm gonna beat him to a pulp. I won't put up with any more of this cheap....."

"Uh-thank you, Ma'am. And now in closing," snarled our reporter, "may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

F.M.D.

THE CHRISTMAS VACATIONERS

Well, let's see where everyone's going for Christmas. Mrs. Harris is leaving us for Dalat; Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Rodrigue, and Mrs. Powell are heading for Hong Kong. The Matteson's are spending a few days in Bangkok. Karen is vacationing in Angkor Wat, while Frank is going to Bangkok and Angkor Wat but at a different time. Steve and Jeff aren't going to get away from school! They'll be going to Hong Kong with the teachers.

The Legend of the Christmas Tree

"Today, the Christmas tree is the center of our festivities. Topped with a star and glittering with lights and ornaments it is a part of the beauty and meaning of the Christmas season.

How did the Christmas tree come to play such an important part in the observance of Christmas?

There is a legend that comes down to us from the early days of Christianity in England. One of those helping to spread Christianity among the Druids was a monk named Wilfred (later Saint Wilfred). One day, surrounded by a group of his converts, he struck down a huge oak tree, which, in the religion of the Druids, was an object of worship.

As the oak tree fell to the earth, it split into four pieces, and from its center there grew a young fir tree, pointing toward the sky. The crowd gazed in amazement.

Wilfred let his axe drop, and turned to speak: "This little tree shall be your Holy Tree tonight. It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are evergreen. It is the wood of peace, for your houses are made of fir. See now it points toward the heavens.

"Let this be called the tree of the Christ Child. Gather about it—not in the wilderness, but in your homes. There it will be surrounded by gifts and rites of kindness."

And to this day, that is why the fir tree is one of our loveliest symbols of Christmas.

Gossip

Little Bobbie Sheehan has been seen lately with old Saint Nick driving down the Catinat in a sleigh, pointing at little toys in the windows.....

What's this we hear about Ken teaching the elder Corsican girl how to Twist?

Hey Ernie, we've found out who Michele likes....

Katy went to whose house for dinner? Randy's?

Jeff wants to know what cunistpie means. Let's not disappoint, ya'll.....

What was that one present Veny wanted for Christmas?

Hey Brooks, what happened to you Tuesday morning between 10:30 and 10:50? You looked like a cyclone had struck you. Can anyone help me with this question? Eh, Boys?

Which one of our sweet teachers is going to give us a New Year's Eve Party? We could use Mrs. Rodrigue's waltz - playing band.....

Miss Semora

DEAR EDITOR

It's hard to believe another year has almost rolled around. Speaking for myself, I can say that it's had its ups and downs; but for the most part it has been progressive.

I'm so proud of being in the school this year since we've really begun to make it a school. Thank you everyone, because we couldn't have done it without you. The Student Council has done a good job in the making of our year more enjoyable and the newspaper has done a lot toward giving us that "Stateside" spirit, as well as being more fun for all of us. Congratulations on this new and successful venture.

I can already give my personal thanks to the yearbook staff for all the work they've done — and for the more they will do!

Many thanks to the teachers and all the many ways they have helped us. We could never have "progressed" without your

Someone asked me what present I would give if I could have my choice and who would give it to. The present I want is to see the high school students proud and interested in their school and this present would be to all of us. I think my "wish" or "present" is already being fulfilled, and I'm sure it will continue to be.

How can I say more, except in wishing you a Merry Christmas. I hope you're all as happy with your "presents" as I am with mine. Have a wonderful time over the holidays.

Sarah and the Gecko Staff

DEAR EDITOR:

Christmas time is the most exciting and wonderful time of the year for us, because there are parties and dances, family gatherings, and the wonderful meaning of Christmas itself. Christmas signifies love of all people and warmth. Even without having snow and icicles it's easy to get into the Christmas spirit. Just look around you — the decorations, the trees, the carols.....

A very wonderful Christmas and New Year to everyone of you — while you're celebrating remember the real, deep meaning of Christmas. Have a wonderful vacation and a joyous New Year.

Steve Johnson

SPORTS

ACHS MASTICATES NAVY 18-12
Dec. 8 - Pershing Field's blinding lights illuminated the nine first string

players of the ACHS soft ball team, who, perched cockily upon their respective positions, were: Smith, pitcher; Wagner, catcher; Steve J., first base; Yeager, second base; Jeff J., third base; Bonnar, shortstop; Nelson, right field; Toussainte, center field; and Henry, left field.

A grand rally at school preceded this, our first game of the season; all were in high spirits, and students spent their break doing a snake dance and decorating Mrs. Rodrigue's small Triumph.

At one time during Friday's game, Navy had reason to be jubilant at the score: 10-0, their favor. But ACHS rallied, and with the organized and earnest efforts of our girls' cheering squad, the persistence of our coach, Father Crawford, and the perseverance of the players themselves, ACHS barged forth and punctured Navy's balsawood hull. Fred's two Grand Slams in the park home runs, which themselves brought in eight runs, many timecatches by the outfielders, and snappy infield operations, together turned what could have been a disappointing wvwning into a grand 18-12 run affair, and the early-made slogan: "Sink the Sailors" rang true that night.

And the MDQTRS. GLOBBER SCHOOL KIDS..... Dec. 9, Pershing Field felt the trump-trump of our ACHS first string as they lumbered onto the field to finish up what had been a discouraging event. In the ninth, the score stood at 21-2 with Headquarters Command in the far lead. And so it was that our team was stunned back to reality by the black and white score board; it is not who wins or what the score is that really counts; it is your attitude and how you play the game. Of course the score makes a lot of difference, too. Summing up, I would say that if we really try, we should end up at least in first place by the end of the last round.

So let's hold 'em in Friday's game with VAA, team, or better still, let's knock the blooming — out of 'em.

D.H.



CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Here are a few replies I got when several persons were asked: "If you had to give one person in the world one present, what and who would it be to?"

I'd give says:

Kris - myself to a certain boy.
 Brooks - a great big 'ol kiss to Sarah.
 Barb F. - a ticket to Saigon for Danny.
 Barb B. - Steve a better disposition.
 Michele - Mike Nelson a pair of stilts.
 Karen - myself a guarantee for Frankie that he won't flirt with any girls 'cept me.
 Ken - myself a 1962 Corvette convertible.
 Frank - Bill a new rabbit.
 Mary Ann M. - give Fred a pep pill.
 Bill W. - Frank a raisin for his rabbit whose got rickets.
 Arlene Z. Larry a ring.
 David H. - Bill W. a Toothpick.
 Larry S. - Arlene a ring.
 Randy S. - Bill W. a one-colored shirt.
 Free - Randy S. a ball glove; he needs one.
 Kathy K. - Richie a gold ring.
 Heather - myself a trap back to the States; why for? I give up, why?
 Lance * myself five million dollars.
 Terry - myself a Cadillac.
 Ernie - Cathy an engagement ring.
 Vicki - Ken a set of drums.
 Susie - Terry a box of cigars.
 Mme. Bachschmitt - my heart to my mother.
 Santa Claus - everybody a Merry Christmas.

MISTLETOE

Many of our practiced Christmas customs began long before the birth of Christ. Some date back to the ancient Roman Saturnalia. Here's a summary of their story:

At the end of December, the Romans honored Saturn, their god of agriculture. They hung wreaths on Saturn's statues and in his temples. (The Christmas wreaths we hang today are like those Roman wreaths.) Romans also gave each other gifts; laurel, olive and myrtle leaves for good luck, figs for a sweeter life, and lamps for a brighter future. (Today we exchange presents with our family friends.)

If you stand under the Mistletoe at Christmas, you are sure to be kissed. Do you know the real reason? In Roman times the one place enemies declared a truce and friendship was under the mistletoe shrub.

There was also an old Norse myth about the Mistletoe: One day, Balder, the Sun God, dreamed he was going to die. He became frightened and went to his mother who promised to make every living thing promise never to harm him. Balder was very relieved and shone brighter than ever. But Balder's mother forgot to ask one thing the

mistletoe; and Loki, the god of mischief knew this. Out of jealousy for the bright, handsome Balder, Loki made an arrow out of the mistletoe wood. Then he gave the arrow to Hoder, the blind god of winter and asked him to please try out a wonderful, magic arrow he had just come across. Hider, not knowing because of his blindness, shot the arrow up into the air, and the arrow pierced Balder's heart. The Sun was dying and grew dimmer and dimmer. The people grieved because they loved the Sun and knew they could not live with out him. Balder's mother mourned so hard that after three days the Sun was brought back to life, and her tears of happiness became Mistletoe berries. She was so happy that she declared that she would kiss all the people who mourned for her son, Balder, the Sun. She asked them all to stand under the Mistletoe which she had forgotten to ask not to hurt her son,. . . Balder's mother proclaimed that from that day on anyone who walked under the Mistletoe must always be kissed - to remember the rebirth of the Sun.

Today Mistletoe is used at Christmas time to add to the gayity, and light heartedness of the season. Often times it adds humor when a hard, stiff person is coaxed under the Mistletoe, where he will have to be kissed -- and undoubtedly enjoy it. The kiss is a symbol of love and at Christmas time everyone loves everyone else -- or should. Since our culture does not usually permit everyone to go around kissing everyone else, the Mistletoe has become our excuse under which anyone can show his fondness or love for another.

K.V.



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MRS. MC DANIEL'S 8th GRADE 11 a CHRISTMAS

Here in Saigon people say, "It's Christmas Season; who's having a party?" or, "Oh, I can't wait to see my presents."But, have we ever stopped to think why we celebrate Christmas? Why don't YOU stop and think about it?

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

7th Grade

8th Grade HOLIDAY PLANS

It's hard to get in the Christmas spirit here in Saigon; but nevertheless Christmas is coming, in fact it will be here before you know it.

There will be a Christmas play and Mrs. Diesen's 8th grade will act the part of the wise men.

Our room has a tree that we decorated ourselves. Larry DeHaves was in charge of the decorating committee.

Goodby 'till next time and Merry Christmas from Mrs. Diesen's room!

Nancy Traylor



Merry Christmas

The editor and staff of the Bamboo Beacon would like to wish you all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. We hope you enjoyed our Christmas issue of the Bamboo Beacon; and have a wonderful vacation!

V.C.

Recommended Reading

[My Father the Spy: An Investigative Memoir](#)

[Saigon Station](#)

[Escape From Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy](#)

[Diplomatic Wanderings: From Saigon to the South Seas](#)

[Vietnam, A Memoir: Saigon Cop](#)

[In Pharaoh's Army: Memories of the Lost War](#)

[Up Country](#)

[Third Culture Kids: The Experience of Growing Up Among Worlds \(Second Revised Edition\)](#)

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