

# Poitiers Panthers

November 2001

Volume 1, Issue 5

...You know you are a Military Brat if... you don't remember the names of your childhood friends.

## REMINDER ABOUT THE NEW ORLEANS REUNION

**D**ATE: September 13-15, 2002

**H**OTEL: Dauphine Orleans Hotel

Make reservations through the SALES OFFICE

ONLY Monday-Friday 9-3 CST 800-521-7111. Request a room from the Poitiers High School Reunion Group. We only have 55 rooms reserved, so call early to reserve your room.

There has been a great response to my inquiry via e-mail as to who may be attending. Looks as if this one may compete with the Dallas reunion as to the number of attendees.

Ted Hokkanen has been working hard on getting the Saturday night dinner together. So far the Cajun band has been booked.

**C**RUISE-Anyone interested in extending the fun on the 7 day cruise should contact Kenneth at Carnival Cruise Lines Tel: 800-681-7447 Ext 77456

**DON'T MISS THE FUN!**

## REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS

During the reunion at Sonoma, CA I was so pleased to reconnect with Karin Krutisch Cotton. We had written a few letters prior to going and it was such fun to get reacquainted with Karin. Julie Wise and I was privileged to



Karin Krutisch Cotton and Charlie Cotton  
Sonoma 1999

and I was privileged to sit with Karin and her husband, Charlie, on the Wine Train. We had such a great time remembering Poitiers, the dorm and catching up on what we were doing now, etc. Karin looked great!

Ernie Ramos sent me a message in the Spring that said Karin had died of cancer. I was stunned to say the least since she looked the picture of health. When Ernie spoke with her husband, he told Ernie that she had been ill for years. Of course now I regret not keeping in touch with Karin since the reunion. I know her family misses her and we have lost another dear alumni.

(The following is taken from an e-mail from Ted Hokkanen)

On a sadder note, I don't know if I told you that my best friend and our old classmate from Poitiers-Richard Etzler '63' (Chinon) died of complications from heart surgery back in Feb/March this year. His death influenced me somewhat to retire. He was 56 and lived up in Decatur, Alabama. I went to school with him in France and Phoenixville High in Valley Forge, PA. He and I met and socialized continually  
Continued on Page 3

You know you are a military brat... if you ask what they mean when someone asks, 'where you are from?'

## *Fulbright Exchange Teacher*

Elizabeth 'Babette' Stafford, Class of 1967, was a Fulbright Exchange Teacher last year in Clisson, France. She shared many of her experiences in a journal. If you are interested in reading about them she has a website at [www.livejournal.com//users/Babs7722](http://www.livejournal.com//users/Babs7722).



## RETURNING TO POITIERS

*(Taken from Jim Policastro's e-mail to me)*

Just a short note to let you know that my wife and I were able to swing by the old school and Chalons housing site in Poitiers this past Wednesday.

We were on our way back to Paris from our trip to an all years reunion at Heidelberg American HS that was held over the previous weekend. I had moved on to Heidelberg following the year at Poitiers (63-64). After 37 years Poitiers has expanded out into what used to be farmland by the US facilities. The housing is now surrounded by tall trees and sometimes equally tall hedges and shrubbery. It appears to be individually owned with the predictable well kept homes and then some that actually seem abandoned! Garages were added to the ends of the houses which really cut down on the space between the houses and added to the closed in feeling.

Now for the School: It's now a mental hospital! I couldn't quite remember how many wings were there but the Frenchwoman I spoke to said that they have knocked some down. The interior hasn't changed a bit and I swear they have the original linoleum tiles on the floor. The color scheme seemed to be right out of the 60's too. The covered walk down the cafeteria is gone and the building doesn't seem to be in use. The teen club is now the cafeteria for the complex and patients seem to be allowed to roam the grounds pretty freely (I didn't see any wearing letter



*Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur eu.*

jackets). The golf course is still there with the water tower hazard still in the middle of one of the fairways. It seems to be run separately from the hospital and is actually very well kept. The football field is now a soccer field and I saw signs for a baseball field but couldn't find it. The buildings all seemed to be poorly maintained but then again the Charles DeGaulle airport's building are a mess and they're only 5 or 6 years old so I guess a 50 year old building is bound to show it's age.

We're back home in Boston now and just about time adjusted and ready for the grind to start on

Monday...needless to say I'll be visiting AuBonPain stores for the next week to get over my croissant and cafe au lait jones. but it is nice to be back to a big refrigerator and the Weber on the deck.

*(Taken from Maggie Klevan Dearnley's e-mail to me)*

Dear Poitivians,

Here's the Poitiers bit: Wow!! It is now a huge, bustling city and we had a heck of a time getting around~ found it that big and unwieldy!! We found the high school fairly easily, but I'm still not sure I found our house, which was within walking distance of the school! It was across a few fields in days of yore; now the city has swallowed the whole area and filled in all the vacant spots. The golf course is still flourishing; the school and Dad's dental clinic etc. are a French nuthouse now, well thought of, according to people we met there. (Visitors, rather than inmates.) And the infamous water tower I remember so well (members of the Class of '62, I think, climbed it to write "Seniors '62", changed by members of my class to "Seniors '64, of course) is still there, sans the inscriptions. It took us ages to find the statue of the virgin that is on a hill overlooking the town, near the entrance to the American base, but find it we did. We also visited the ancient sites I hardly remember that dot the downtown, now a pedestrians-only section. They are mind-boggling; how can I remember them so poorly? And then, finding the car again was a treat!! And this was on a Sunday~ the mind boggles at the thought of having tried to do this in weekday traffic! We spent the night outside of town (30 kilometers or so is all) in the Chateau Curzey, built in 1790 on a zillion bucholic acres or so, with enough room in the "back yard" for several helicopters to park for overnight guests with one indeed there when we were) and a one-star in Michelin restaurant. We have pictures of our room~ eighteen foot ceilings or so. Don't need pictures of the food~ I'm wearing it.

I really was impressed with Poitiers, but almost impressed the same way Dick was with what a wonderful historic old town it is. I can't say I felt terrifically

nostalgic or anything; it's changed that much. But I am glad we visited it, and would go back in a New York minute to revisit that lovely old town rather than to try to walk down memory lane. I did try~ and I got lost!

Anyway, honestly did think of you all while I was there. Once a Panther....

Love, Maggie

*Thanks to Jim and Maggie for sharing their trips with us and Elizabeth 'Babette' Stafford for her journal.*

## **REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)**

over the years. Such a shame! God Rest!

Mary Ann 'Peggy' Williams died on October 26, 2001. Peggy was from the Class of 1964. Her brother, Howard, emailed Ernie Ramos..."loved by all in her department and by all of her friends." I remember how nice she was to this underclassman in the dorm so I am sure she was loved by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Ronnie Hayes Ehrlich went to the reunion last year for Rochefort High School and found out that Mary Jurbala has also died. She was from the Class of 1959.

***We are not guaranteed tomorrow so stay in touch !***





R-Peggy Anderson, Jerry Daniel, Siv Keyser  
F-Sam Greene, Jim Policastro



R-Siv Hendry Keyser, Peggy Taylor Anderson  
F-Sam Greene, Jim Policastro



R-Siv Keyser, Roger Keyser, Peggy Anderson  
F-Sam Greene, Jim Policastro

After Jim Policastro returned from his reunion in Germany he emailed me about his visit to Poitiers which was featured earlier in the newsletter.

Jim mentioned that he was planning on coming to Atlanta from Boston for a wedding in October and had been discussing with Sam Greene (64) getting together. Of course I asked if Siv Hendry Keyser and I could crash their get together since I was planning on being in the Atlanta area to meet up with Bill Powell (65) for the first time in 38 years. Jim and Sam were nice enough to let us join in their reunion.

I had never met Jim before so that was a challenge in itself. We decided to meet at his hotel and have dinner there. His friend, Jerry Daniel, from Heidelberg joined the

fun! It is always amazing to me that even though we never met we were not strangers.

The next evening we met up with Bill Powell and his wife Betty. I believe Siv's & Linda's thoughts below echoes my sentiments exactly! We were really sorry that Sam Greene couldn't join us though.

On my way home on Sunday all I could think of was what a wonderful weekend all the way around. In fact I missed a turn trying to get out of Atlanta because my head was in the clouds! I got to see Linda Thomson Sexton that I haven't seen in a few years (even though we do stay in touch), stay with Siv and Roger and get to meet new friends and see old!

group also. It was such fun! It was so great seeing Sam again after all these years.

In fact we were having such a good time that the poor manager of the restaurant finally had to ask us to leave since they needed to get it ready for the morning breakfast. So of course we adjourned to the hotel bar area where we were able to continue with our "reminences".

Siv, Roger, Siv's husband, and I finally made it to bed around 1:30 a.m. What

## A FUN



Siv Keyser, Peggy Anderson, Linda Sexton



L-R: Siv Hendry Keyser, Linda Thomson Sexton, Bill Powell,



Bill & Betty Powell

### AN ATLANTA MINI-REUNION by Siv Hendry Keyser

All of us have been deeply moved by the unthinkable acts carried out against our beloved nation. Being raised in a military environment we have lived, worked and gone to school with people that didn't share our ethnic background or our religion. This upbringing is something that sets us apart from others in our age group and, on a personal level, I find myself very thankful that friends and acquaintances with diverse ancestries influenced my formative years. Staying in touch with these

people is an important part of my life and when another one is "found", the reunion is that much sweeter.

On a beautiful October weekend, I was gifted with a remarkable gathering of people that had a major impact on my adolescent and teenage years. I see two of them quite often and love them both dearly. Linda Thomson Sexton (65) and Peggy Taylor Anderson (65) have been two of my closest friends since we were in 8th grade. They both came to spend the weekend with me in Atlanta and take part in the reunion with Bill Powell (65), one of our favorite people from our 8th, 9th and 10th grade years, at Bussac and Poitiers, and someone we hadn't seen in 38 years.

I cannot adequately describe the feelings I felt

when I first feasted my eyes on Bill Powell! Hugging him tightly, I felt all 38 years drift away. All I could see was an older version of the smart, funny, handsome young man I knew in France. The added bonus was meeting his beautiful wife, Betty. Bob Sexton, Betty and my husband Roger were all enthusiastic listeners to our many "remember when" stories. The seven of us ended the evening by closing down the restaurant. What a wonderful and memorable time we had together. After returning home, Linda, Peggy and I stayed up till 2 a.m. talking—we were that worked up

(Continued on page 5)

*(An Atlanta Mini-Reunion Continued from page 4)*  
over our great evening!

My special thanks go to Peggy, Linda and Bill for filling a space in my heart. The nicest thing about this space is its capacity to expand and make room for more people, love and memories. I look forward to the expansion that will come with the 2002 reunion in New Orleans when we all meet again.

### **A BLAST FROM THE PAST!**

*by Linda Thomson Sexton*

When my dad was transferred back to the states in April of 1963, I really never expected to see any of my Bussac/Poitiers friends again. Military folks get so scattered here and there. Then in the mid 1980's, four of us girls attended a reunion in Myrtle Beach, S.C. that was organized by our parents. We were all bitten; Peggy became rabid, not to mention, most productive in finding other long lost friends. Later, there were Poitiers reunions to attend. Without failure, whenever we're together, people wanted to know if anyone has "found" "our" Bill Powell. I can tell you there are at least a zillion Bill Powell's in Philadelphia, PA, which is where I looked over many years. WELL, last summer he showed up in Atlanta. On Saturday evening, Oct. 20th. Peggy T. Anderson, Siv H. Keyser and her husband, Roger, my husband, Bob, and I had A Blast From The Past! We had the pleasure of being joined for dinner by "our" own Bill Powell and his beautiful wife, Betty. You all, this was so wonderful, being able to step back into the past for just a short time. I hadn't seen Bill in over 38 years, and here he was sitting across the table from me, with the same voice, quick smile, and witty sense of humor. Do you remember how his eyes twinkled when he smiled: they still do that. What's different about "our Bill"? He's still lovable Bill, but now sports a mustache, has a drop-dead gorgeous wife, and twin girls. I understand they are planning to attend the reunion next September. I'm really looking forward to the reunion, seeing friends, celebrating the "finding" of "our" Bill Powell, and having A Blast From The Past.



Linda & Bob Sexton



Thanks to Peter Poth for the photo

## POITIERS AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL TRIVIA QUESTIONS

Hi Everybody: In an effort to renew some interest in our schoolmates and to show an appreciation for some of the things that they have accomplished, here is a quickie list of questions but no answers. How many can you answer? (Correctly) If you have any news or bits of trivia that you want to include about yourself or anyone else who is an ex-Poitouvian, please let us know. Unfortunately, the information cannot be about a non-Poitouvian spouse, family member or friend. If you think that you are the answer or a part of the answer to a question, but you want to clarify anything else about the question, please let us know that also. You can write to either me or to Peggy Taylor Anderson 65. We are going to have a big contest at the New Orleans Reunion in 2002 with a special prize for the most correct answers. Please contribute. Thanks for your interest..  
Ernie 64

1. Which one of us built his own house?
2. Which ex-Poitouvian is in charge of all U.S. Army Special Forces anywhere in the world?
3. Which of us has the most college degrees and/or professional credentials?
4. Which former Poitouvian actively participated in John F. Kennedy's funeral in November 1963 as a member of the armed forces?
5. Which of us flew in the Normandy invasion in 1944?
6. Which of us graduated from Harvard Business School?
7. Which of us went to Poitiers American High School for 4 straight years and actually graduated from there?
8. How many of us went to a French high school?
9. Which of us is almost President of General Motors? (In other words, he's way up there!!).
10. Which of us is an active politician?
11. Which of us played sports in college?
12. Which of us actually went all the way back to Poitiers for a visit? Which of us actually got inside the dormitory---and not as a mental patient?
13. Which of us was one of the very few who drove a car legally while still a student at Poitiers?
14. How many US Army generals came from our group?
15. Which one of us taught mathematics at the U.S. Air Force Academy?
16. Which one of us met Elvis Presley when Elvis was in the army in Germany?
17. Which of us is a world famous clarinetist still living in Germany?
18. Which of us has written a best selling book on a certain aspect of child rearing?
19. Who sends the most jokes on the internet?
20. Which of us was hired to do a professional job for Donald Trump?
21. Who in our group is a pediatrician?
22. Name two people in our group who met each other in Poitiers, later got married and are still married to each other.
23. Name the artist in our group who painted the "Poitiers Madonna" and had it raffled off in Dallas.
24. Who from our school graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point?
25. Name two guys who started off as army enlisted men and who worked their way up the officer ranks. One is now our highest ranking officer in the group and actually one of the highest ranking officers in the whole U.S. Army. He is still on active duty. What rank is he?

26. Who in our group is a Vice President for the top detective agency, Pinkerton?
27. Which one of our alumni is now a real big wheel for Bausch and Lomb?
28. Which one of us has actually published a really funny book about dorm life at Poitiers?
29. Which ex-Poitouvian spent 2 years in Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer?
30. How many ex-Air Force jet fighter pilots do we have?
31. Who is the attorney in our group who worked in Siberia?
32. Which female ex-Poitouvian successfully ran 3 marathons?
33. Which woman ex-Poitouvian made a career of the US Army?
34. Which ex-Poitouvian is considered to be perhaps the top hospital administrator in Texas?
35. Which two ex-Poitouvians found themselves living right next door to each other totally by coincidence while serving as military officers in Illinois?
37. How many women attorneys do we have in our group?
38. Which person served in the top position at Paine Webber in Alaska before retiring last year?
39. How many Fulbright Scholars do we have? How many halfbright scholars? (Sorry---I just couldn't resist that one!)
40. Which one of us actually performed on the Tonight Show (Johnny Carson's)?
41. Which one of us had to dance bare chested on the stage of Jay Leno's Tonight Show in order to get a stupid tee-shirt?
42. Which of us has driven the same car for almost 33 years? And can't get a date because of it?
43. Which one of us served in the U.S. Army in Germany and then decided to make his home there after marrying a German national?
44. Which of us is a Fire Captain in the Columbus, Georgia fire department?
45. And for the umpteenth time, who the hell painted the "Class of 62" sign on the water tower and other places?
46. Who amongst us still actively pilots a plane and/or helicopter?
47. Name two former Poitouvians who discovered only 2 years ago that they have been living less than a mile from each other for more than 25 years!!
48. Which ex-Poitouvian pursued her lifelong dream of raising horses and has been honored as the "Ohio Breeder of the Year" by having her picture on the cover of a State trade publication?
49. Which one of us got to meet Oliver North after the Iran controversy and had a long discussion with him in a limousine?
50. How many of us put our own kids through college first and then decided to pursue our own careers and were very successful at both events?
51. Which one of us actually dated one of the dorm counselors? (I don't care if it is a long story, I want to know!!)

Have you noticed the red, white and blue theme to this newsletter? It was deliberate; I wanted to pay homage to the victims, their families of the events of September 11 at the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and Pennsylvania. Also remember our military personnel. These attacks on our great nation were beyond belief. Keep the families and friends of the victims, the rescue workers and their families, the military and their families, America, and our leadership in your thoughts and prayers. God Bless America!

Peggy



*We will never forget  
September 11, 2001*

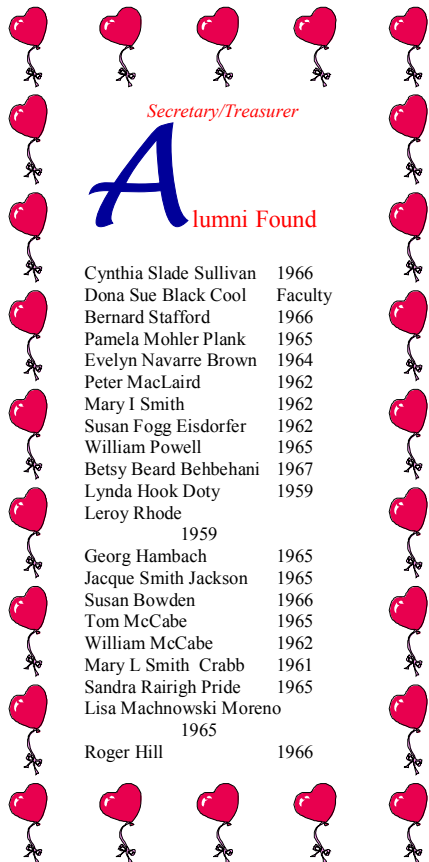
**SEND ANY COMMENTS, PHOTOS OR INFORMATION TO:**

### ***Reminder about information for the Memory Book***

Enclosed is another copy for you to use in case you misplaced the first one. You can put the information on another paper, on the back of this one or email me the information. A few people responded but no where near anything I can work with.

I will be putting in many of the photos that have been submitted to me so look in your old photo books and see if you don't have something of interest for folks. It could be the post you were stationed at, Poitiers, or just pictures of France in general. I'm sure everyone would enjoy it.

Thanks,  
Peggy



*Secretary/Treasurer*

## **A**lumni Found

- |                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Cynthia Slade Sullivan | 1966    |
| Dona Sue Black Cool    | Faculty |
| Bernard Stafford       | 1966    |
| Pamela Mohler Plank    | 1965    |
| Evelyn Navarre Brown   | 1964    |
| Peter MacLaird         | 1962    |
| Mary I Smith           | 1962    |
| Susan Fogg Eisdorfer   | 1962    |
| William Powell         | 1965    |
| Betsy Beard Behbehani  | 1967    |
| Lynda Hook Doty        | 1959    |
| Leroy Rhode            | 1959    |
| Georg Hambach          | 1965    |
| Jacque Smith Jackson   | 1965    |
| Susan Bowden           | 1966    |
| Tom McCabe             | 1965    |
| William McCabe         | 1962    |
| Mary L Smith Crabb     | 1961    |
| Sandra Rairigh Pride   | 1965    |
| Lisa Machnowski Moreno | 1965    |
| Roger Hill             | 1966    |

## **DUES**

**Y**es it is that time of year again!

For all of you that have paid your dues I just want you to know how much it is appreciated. Dues are to help with the cost of producing and mailing the newsletter. In 2001 approximately 6% of our alumni paid dues. As an incentive I will not only send you the current directory but a copy of a yearbook of your choice. As I have stated before, dues are not mandatory but voluntary however they certainly help support the effort.

**Thank you again for your support.**  
*Peggy Taylor Anderson*

**Dues for 2002 \$20.00/year**

**SEND TO:**

Poitiers High School Alumni

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Province \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZIP/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Payment \_\_\_\_\_