

With this edition of the newsletter we welcome Karl BARCLAY, who has joined us from London, where he now works. We were also pleased to receive news from a number of people from whom we have not heard for a considerable time. It is reassuring to know that the newsletter is still being received and read with interest by so many of you.

We include also a description of the memorable encounter in Zhejiang Province between David SYME and James WONG. The famous meeting in Africa between STANLEY and LIVINGSTONE is well documented but at least one went looking for the other. The initial meetings between WADE and GILES as well as BARNETT and CHAO were truly of great importance to students of Chinese, but common purpose drew them together. However, for two old CLS colleagues, who had not seen each other for years, to meet at the Xiuzhou Middle School, Jiaxing, in Zhejiang Province, China on 27 October, neither knowing that the other would be there, is nothing short of amazing..... for details of this spine-tingling event see the entries for David SYME and James WONG.

As usual, we thank all of you who sent in contributions. For a reminder of the 2007 reunion, please see inside the back cover.

***A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND
ALL GOOD WISHES FOR 2005
TO OUR READERS***

NEWS OF MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Frances ADAMSON (FCO Course mid 80s) is currently in Taipei with the Australian Foreign Service.

Karl BARCLAY (Cantonese early 80s) has retired from government service and is now working in London for HSBC. We are pleased to welcome Karl to our mailing list.

Ian BRUCE (Cantonese early 80s) has recently moved house but is still living in the South of England.

Geoff CHADWICK (Mandarin late 60s) has written following our report of the death of Mike JENKINS (Mandarin mid 70s). Geoff worked closely with Mike in connection with official Chinese delegations to UK and remembers clearly how Mike's charm and good humour meant that rapport was quickly established. Geoff has provided this picture, taken in 1978, of Mike (left) with CHAI Cheng, then head of the PLA Foreign Affairs Bureau, with (right) a senior manager at Yarrow Shipbuilders.



Kim CHAN Kwok-Kin (Staff) has once again sent in beautiful Canadian stamps commemorating the Year of the Monkey in sufficient quantities for one to be included with each copy of the newsletter. During March this year Kim and his wife travelled with World Vision Canada to Yunnan Province in China where they had the opportunity to visit children whom they sponsor through the World Vision organisation. Kim has sent this charming photograph of himself and his wife with a group of local people in traditional dress.



During August Kim was back in China, this time visiting Ningxia A.R. with EMAS, the Evangelical Missionary Aid Society. We admire his work with the needy people of China and we thank him for his generous provision of the beautiful postage stamps.

Mrs. CHENG Ya Lan (Mrs. Zhong) (Staff) visited the United States Air Force Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, at Hill Air Force Base in June. Before watching the thrilling display, she had lunch under the wing of a B-52 Bomber in the Hill Aerospace Museum. The picture shows Mrs. Zhong reporting for duty.



During the year Mrs. Zhong has also visited Jackson, Wyoming where her daughter has a time-share apartment, and later spent time at Sundance Resort. She is still doing Tai Chi and attending lessons in Spanish, and the many pictures she sends show that she is obviously in good health, with undiminished enthusiasm for whatever she does.

Sheena CONNELLY (Mandarin early 90s) is still living and working in Bali, Indonesia, teaching English on-line for a company called English Town. Sheena works in an office in Denpasar but the students log on mainly from Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan. Mexico, Italy, France, Germany and Brazil.

Robin CROSLEGH (Mandarin early 80s) has been in touch from the South of England where he lives, expressing support for the proposed reunion in Hong King in 2007.

Dave ELLIS (Cantonese early 70s) is now Corporate Director, Planning and Future Studies, at the Detroit Medical Center in Detroit, Michigan. Dave and wife Miki were in UK briefly in November for his mother's 90th birthday at which time they hoped to visit Bill GUEST, who was a classmate studying Cantonese in the early 1970s.

Bill GUEST (Cantonese early 70s and Mandarin late 70s) was hoping to have had a kidney transplant this year but at the eleventh hour the surgeons decided not to go ahead. Bill is now hoping that the operation can go ahead towards the end of 2005; in the meantime he is continuing on dialysis and remains in good spirits. Grandson Albert is a source of delight; Bill and Catherine spend much time with him.

Bill HOUSE (Mandarin late 80s) had been lining up a contract to work in Nanjing, China, but eventually decided that he preferred to stay in UK with the Kent Police where he has now moved to a senior management role.

Dave KITCHING (Cantonese late 60s and Mandarin late 80s) has again been in contact from Spain, where he and Joanne now live. Both he and John SHANNON (see later) have enquired as to the current whereabouts of David VARLEY.

Ian LIVERMORE (Cantonese early 70s) called from Germany following the publication of the Spring 2004 newsletter wondering why his name had vanished from the 'Contacts' list. Although blaming the computer, your unworthy editor accepts full responsibility and we have restored Ian to the list: as we get older we have to be careful about these things - was it Mark Twain who once said that reports of his passing were premature?

Rufus ORME (Mandarin mid 80s) left New Zealand in 1999 and is now working for IBM as a Project Manager in the South of England. For the past four years, he has been managing the installation of supercomputers at the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (see www.ecmwf.int). The two systems they are installing at present are the largest supercomputers in Europe (sixth largest in the world), with each system performing over 9.2 trillion calculations per second! Rufus has been in touch with Paul STOKES (Mandarin mid 80s) and Brian CONNOR (Mandarin late 80s) and would be pleased to be contacted by e-mail at richard_orme@uk.ibm.com (please note underscore) by any ex CLS personnel. Accommodation is available to anyone who might care to drop by.

Jumbo PARTRIDGE (FCO Admin Officer mid 80s) is still living in Queensland, Australia, but he and Paula are looking to sell up and move to UK, possibly in 2005. Among the pictures sent by Jumbo is one of him in full rig for Anzac Day, shown here.



The medals on his right breast are the World War One medals of an uncle who was wounded at Ypres while serving as a Colour Sergeant with a Canadian infantry regiment. Those on the left are his. The car is a 22 year old Volvo, a testimony to Swedish engineering after years on the unmade roads in the vicinity.

Melville PETRIE (Mandarin early 80s) has moved house but is still living in the South of England.

Alan ROBERTSON (Mandarin late 60s and Cantonese mid 70s) visited Croatia again at the end of May this year and found it as beautiful as ever. He also spent two weeks in the Czech Republic during August, taking a particular interest in anything connected with the German Occupation during World War Two. For Alan, the most fascinating display in the Army Museum was that dealing with the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, so-called Reichsprotektor of Bohemia and Moravia, carried out by British-trained Czech commandos in 1942. Alan later visited Lidice, the small mining township where all males over 16 years old were rounded up and shot in swift reprisal for the killing of Heydrich. The women were sent to Ravensbruck and the children to Chelmno in Poland, to meet their deaths in gas chambers. Lidice was then removed from the map.

John SHANNON (Cantonese late 60s) has been in touch asking if anyone can provide details of the current whereabouts of David VARLEY, a Chinese linguist whose studies pre-dated the opening of CLS in 1967. Dave KITCHING has also asked this question and we would be grateful if anyone could provide an answer.

David SYME (Mandarin late 70s) who currently lives in Scotland, now visits China twice per year for the GAP Organisation, keeping an eye on gap-year students teaching English in Chinese schools. On 27 October David was visiting a school in Jiaxing, Zhejiang Province. On the same day Mr. WONG Kwok Wei (Staff) who currently lives in Los Angeles, California, was visiting the same school for a reunion of former students. The two met in the school yard in what must be a most amazing coincidence; neither knew that the other would be there - a minute or two either way and they would have missed each other. We hope to bring you more details and a photograph in the next edition of the newsletter.

Ian WELFARE (FCO Course early 80s) has written from Scotland supporting the idea of a reunion in Hong Kong in 2007. See inside back cover for a reminder of this proposed event.

Mr. James WONG Kwok Wei (Staff) has had a busy year. His trip to Zhejiang Province for a school reunion in October, with the incredible chance meeting with David SYME, has already been reported. While in the area James made contact with Mr. Sujan CHINOY, the Consul General of India in Shanghai, who studied Chinese at Hong Kong University during the early 80s. Mr. Chinoy provided details of two former CLS students and this information can be found elsewhere in this issue. During the summer James and Susan took a cruise to Alaska aboard the P & O ship Sun Princess, and the photo shows them on the last evening of the cruise.



An account of the cruise, with more photographs, can be found elsewhere in this issue.

OTHER NEWS

During his visit to China in November Mr. James WONG Kwok Wei met with Mr. Sujan CHINOY, the Consul General of India in Shanghai. From Mr. Chinoy he obtained the following information on former CLS students from India:

T.C.A. RANGACHARI (FCO Course) is currently the Indian Ambassador to Germany at the Embassy in Berlin. His e-mail address is ambassador@indianembassy.de should you remember him and wish to contact him.

Shyam SARAN (FCO Course) is now the Foreign Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs in the Government of India. This is considered to be the top civil service position in the country. His e-mail address is fso@mea.gov.in should you wish to contact him.

We thank Mr. Wong for these contributions. It is always a pleasure to receive news of those who have been included in the Where Are They Now? section of the newsletter since it started.

FJORDS, SNOWY MOUNTAINS, GLACIERS - ALASKA!

**by
James Wong**

The first time I travelled on a P & O ship was from Bombay to Hong Kong on the 'Chitral' in 1969, at the end of my appointment in the Chinese Department at the Indian Army Educational Corps Training College in Pachmarchi, India. Thirty four years later, from 31st May to 7th June 2004, I travelled with the cruise ship 'Sun Princess' on an eight-day (seven night) cruise from Vancouver to Alaska.



Susan and I boarded the 'Sun Princess' during the afternoon and the ship set sail at 6.30 p.m. on 31st May. The whole night and the whole of the next day were spent cruising in Georgia Strait and Queen Charlotte Strait. The sea was calm and the atmosphere peaceful. We felt no motion and heard no noise; it was just like sleeping in an hotel room. The ship headed for Ketchikan for her first stop. This is the first port of call in Alaska for northbound cruise ships and during the early morning of the third day (2nd June) we entered United States waters.

Captain George Vancouver carried out an exploration of the Inner Passage in 1793 and discovered the territory now known as Ketchikan. The first white settlers came in 1883 and built a fish salting factory, followed by more than a dozen canneries producing over two million cases of salmon per year, thus earning Ketchikan the title of 'Salmon Capital of the World'. It was drizzling as we strolled along Front Street and we were surprised to see rows of jewellery shops. We went into one and met a saleswoman who had come from Shanghai the previous year, lured by high wages, even though the business season is only from May to September each year.

During the previous evening (1st June) I had visited the casino on board, playing the slot machines at five cents stake and within three hours I had lost more than 100 dollars. That night I went there again and at first made more losses. Then an image appeared on the screen which seemed to be telling me that if I touched it at the right time, I would win. I did so and this proved correct. I did this a couple more times, then a bell rang and out came 9,600 five cent pieces, which discounting my earlier losses gave me net winnings of around 350 dollars and a nice surprise.

The vessel's second stop was at Juneau, the State Capital of Alaska. In 1880 Joe Juneau and Richard Harries searched for gold here and found nuggets as large as beans. Three large gold mines were then established close to today's Juneau, which at that time had no name. Juneau now has a population of about 30,000, of which some 3,000 are Pilipinos working in the salmon canneries. We had a *chaomian* in the Dragon Palace Chinese Restaurant at noon and discovered that there were only about one hundred Chinese in Juneau, engaged in small-scale businesses.

Our entire cruise was within the numerous fjords along the West Pacific coast and we never went out into the open sea. I had never seen so many snow-capped mountains lined up as far as the eye could see. It was early summer; the snow had begun melting and the beauty of the surroundings fascinated me. Our ship arrived in Skagway on the morning of 4th June. Susan and I had reserved a combination coach/train ticket for travelling the White Pass and Yukon Route to White Horse in Yukon Territory.

During the whole 40-mile coach trip, a few cars passed on the road but there were no signs of houses or people. The trip ended at Carcross in Yukon Territory, where we had lunch and then boarded the train back to Skagway on the White Pass and Yukon Railway.



This narrow gauge railroad was built in 1898 during the Klondike gold rush. It climbs 3,000 feet in just 20 miles and features steep grades, cliff-hanging turns, two tunnels and numerous trestles and bridges. It is incredible to think that it has been running profitably for over a hundred years; at first it was used by the gold miners but this only lasted for a few years and since then it has been used by tourists. Our train took us downhill all the way back to Skagway, a very small town with only 800 residents year-round, rising to 1,200 in summer. Nowadays, at least 400 cruise ships visit annually, carrying around 800,000 tourists who find themselves enjoying the town with a 'Gold Rush' theme.

In 1896 when George Washington Cormack and his Indian companions, Skoom Jim and Tagish Charlie, found gold in a tributary of the Klondike River in Canada's Yukon Territory, some 30,000 gold seekers passed through Skagway during the first year of the rush, but it was not until the completion of the White Pass and Yukon Railway in mid-1898 that Skagway cemented its position as 'Gateway to the Klondike'.

We left Skagway in the late evening of 4th June, travelling through Icy Strait during the night and arriving at Glacier Bay in the morning. The first thing to catch my eye was the sight of countless chunks of ice floating on the surface of the water. After cruising through the bay, we arrived at Grand Pacific Glacier and Margerie Glacier in the late afternoon, the ship stopping about a quarter of a mile from them. It was apparent that the ice was several hundred feet thick and several thousand yards wide, bluish-grey in colour. On three occasions while we were there, large chunks of ice broke off with a muffled sound like a light explosion and fell into the sea, accompanied by shouts of "Iceberg!, Iceberg!" from the watching passengers.



People have been coming to Alaska since the 1880s to see Glacier Bay. Enter the bay and you cruise along shorelines which were completely covered in ice just 200 years ago. In 1794 Captain George Vancouver found Icy Strait choked with ice and Glacier Bay was a barely indented glacier, more than 4,000 feet thick and 20 miles or more wide, extending over 100 miles to the St. Elias range of mountains. By 1879 the naturalist John Muir found that the ice had retreated 48 miles up the bay and by 1916 the Grand Pacific Glacier headed Tarr Inlet 65 miles from the mouth of Glacier Bay. Such a rapid retreat is known nowhere else and scientists have documented it, hoping to learn how glacier activity relates to climate changes. As to the scenery of the glaciers, words cannot describe it; I believe that it needs a spirited artist of great skill to portray it vividly.

We moved slowly out of Glacier Bay that afternoon, reluctant to leave. The ship took a southerly course through Icy Strait to the Gulf of Alaska, entering the traffic lanes of Prince William Sound and proceeding at slow speed towards Port Wells and College Fjord. We observed glaciers at from a greater distance than that from which we had viewed Grand Pacific Glacier the day before. On the shore to our left a row of six glaciers were lined up for our inspection. On the right shore, further away, were even bigger and wider glaciers but we saw no signs of ice crashing into the sea.

During the evening a farewell party took place on board. 746 champagne flutes were used to construct a champagne fountain. As the champagne was poured, everyone cheered, the band played, photographs were taken and the passengers retired happily to their cabins at the end of the party. So ended our cruise journey.



HK REUNION: 2007

Following the suggestion from Kim CHAN a year or so ago, it has become apparent from contributors to recent newsletters that there is great support for the idea of a reunion of former staff and students in Hong Kong in 2007. Our initial thoughts are as follows:

- That the reunion takes place in November 2007. This is closer to the 40th anniversary of the opening date of the school in 1967 and is far enough away from the 10th anniversary of the handover in 1997, which is likely to put a strain on accommodation, etc.
- Travel will be by individual arrangement. We have had from John Prince a kind offer of help with group discount for accommodation in Hong Kong and many may wish to avail themselves of this. More details later.
- There will be one gala event as the focus for the reunion. We envisage that this will be a banquet at a Chinese restaurant on the second Saturday in November 2007 and we have had from John Shannon a kind offer of help in arranging this. More details later.
- Many people from many nations attended different courses at CLS at different times. For this reason we envisage that small groups will get together for other activities during the reunion, which will not be organised centrally.
- Those taking part will therefore be able to spend as much or as little time in Hong Kong as they choose. We would hope that many will make new friends as well as renew old friendships and would be pleased to see maximum attendance at the gala dinner.

These are initial thoughts. We welcome your comments. We shall provide more details in future newsletters and to aid planning we hope to include a return slip (in English and Chinese) with the Spring 2005 newsletter.