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IN THIS ISSUE

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Peace, It's Something We Can Create: AFS Peace Petition Launched At Nobel Peace Center In Norway

AFS Board of Trustees with sign outside of Nobel Peace Center, April 27, 2007.

A major initiative for the AFS 60th Anniversary year is the Petition Drive to gather signatures in support of a global expansion of youth exchange programs. The text of the petition is below.

We, the undersigned, know that peace and justice require that we extend the hand of friendship across borders, cultures and religions, and that knowledge and understanding are needed to nurture these friendships. The nations of the world can promote peace by helping the world's youth build these friendships.

Therefore, we call upon the world's leaders to enable young people everywhere to live and study in cultures other than their own by significantly expanding youth exchange programs.

Friendship leads to understanding. Understanding leads to peace. We call on all to grasp this opportunity.

The Petition for a Global Expansion of Educational Youth Exchange Programs is a worldwide effort that will not only involve AFS, but many other organizations and people with an interest in promoting peace through intercultural understanding. We hope to collect at least one million signatures in support of this petition. The petition will be presented to the United Nations in a ceremony connected to the AFS 60th Anniversary Celebration in New York, at the end of October 2007.

The Petition was launched on April 27th in a ceremony at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway. The event was attended by Mr. Odd Einar Dørum, Member of the Norwegian Parliament, and Ms. Christina Weima Lager, Head of the Norwegian Red Cross Youth. Ambassadors from countries that exchange students with AFS in Norway, the Board of Trustees of AFS International, current and former participants, host families, volunteers and representatives from other organizations also attended.

On the 60th anniversary of the AFS exchange programs, started after World War II by former volunteer ambulance drivers with a mission to further understand and avoid future wars among people, the petition calls upon world leaders to increase their support of student exchange programs and to promote a new kind of diplomacy.

"Our young people are our best ambassadors, and they can carry the message," said Francisco "Tachi" Cazal, President and CEO of AFS Intercultural Programs. "As our petition says, friendship leads to understanding and understanding leads to peace." AFS needs you to make this petition a success. If you are interested in supporting the petition, please contact Carlos Porro, Communications Manager at 212-807-8686 ext.121 or send an email to: carlos.porro@afs.org.

Visit the Petition website and learn how you can get involved and take action: www.exchanges4peace.org.

Education and the AFS-sponsored International Petition

By Arthur Howe, Jr.

An effective cultural exchange experience can provide the most significant year of learning in a young person's life. So it was for me, and so it's been for hundreds of thousands of others whose testimony comes from around the globe. It will also frequently become a powerful force in the lives of host family members. From another perspective, such a year represents a great bargain in education when, for example, one compares its value to the $45,000 spent for a year at Harvard.

Arthur Howe, Jr.

These are strong convictions after a long life of diverse professional and personal engagement in education, at many levels. And it's also why my remaining energy in old age is, beyond family involvements, focused on the work of AFS with which I've been rewardingly involved, in both war and peace, for 65 years. Thus, I passionately endorse the petition in support of a global expansion of youth exchange programs, reflecting the brightest beam of light on my clouded horizon.

AFS 2006 World Congress - Rotorua, New Zeland

Keith Stock, Kevin Allen Winters, Mayor of Rotorua, New Zealand and Tachi Cazal at Rotorua Town Hall, November 1, 2006.

The 2006 AFS World Congress, with the theme "Manaakitanga – Feel the Spirit" was held in Rotorua, New Zealand, on November 2-4, 2006. It was the first time that the World Congress had been hosted in the South Pacific. The World Congress found the organization at the mid-point, in terms of achieving its Vision 2010, which was adopted at the World Congress in Costa Rica in 1999. The objective of the 2006 World Congress was to develop a shared global perspective on current operations. The operational priorities for AFS in the coming four years were discussed, and the attendees shared ideas and best practices.

The participants reviewed progress on issues raised at the 2005 World Congress held in Torino. The plenary meetings of the World Congress included sessions on Accountability for 2005/2006 for the Board of Trustees, Management Council, International Administration and Partners. In his session on Intercultural Development and Organizational Culture, Dr. Milton Bennett introduced concepts of intercultural sensitivity. Major discussions were undertaken, with decisions made, on governance (Governance Working Group) and financial arrangements within the AFS network (Network Financial Arrangements Working Group). The Congress concluded with recommendations for a work group on volunteer capacity to report to the 2007 World Congress in New York.

AFS President Francisco "Tachi" Cazal addressed the delegates and gave an overview of progress toward the goals outlined in the Vision 2010. Much has been achieved concerning AFS' strategic direction, but AFS still has a long way to go. Tachi reaffirmed AFS' commitment to continuing the growth and expansion of AFS intercultural exchange programs, and to maintaining the high quality of the services provided to participants. Additionally, he outlined plans for expanding the AFS presence in China, India, Africa and the Middle East.

Tachi saluted AFS New Zealand at Rotorua City Hall: "We have come from all corners of the world this year to gather in a country that truly celebrates the wonderful diversity of its cultures, languages and traditions — an example to many. This celebration of the spirit of multiculturalism that we find in New Zealand, and the acknowledgement that we can learn from others, not only how to live together peacefully, but to live together in peace and in a way that enriches every aspect of our lives, truly mirrors the values that the AFS Network represents. I am honored and happy to be here among all of you tonight."

"This AFS World Congress" Tachi stated, "is also being held in the year that we have begun to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of AFS. AFS New Zealand is one of the initial members who joined the fledging network in 1947 — as such, it will be celebrating its own sixtieth anniversary in 2007. Congratulations, AFS New Zealand, and my most heartfelt wishes for another 60 years — and many more — of offering the kind of intercultural education experiences that bring people together and bridges oceans, creating lifelong bonds of love, friendship and understanding."

An Italian Regiment in the Mountains on The Cassino Front

By Walter Doyle, CM 41

In April 1944, Tom Durrance and I drove our AFS ambulances into the mountains northeast of Cassino, where we were assigned to the medical unit of a co-belligerent regiment of Italian troops. The steep, winding road to the medical station was on the slopes of Monte Marrone ("Chestnut Mountain"), more than 5,000 feet high.

There had been one AFS driver assigned to the Italian post, and we were replacing him. The driver whom we were relieving was Don Harty, who looked to be about my own age, 20. Don had been with the Italians only a few days and was rejoining his platoon in another part of the Cassino line. He was a cheery, upbeat fellow.

An attack was planned and it was apparent that more ambulance capacity would be needed. The Italian regiment was made up of one battalion each of parachutists, Alpini troops and the special assault units called bersaglieri – literally, "target shooters" or sharpshooters. In the opinion of the British, who had battled them in North Africa, these three branches were the finest soldiers in the Italian Army.

The Italian dressing station consisted of four fairly large tents, with smaller adjoining tents for enlisted personnel. The main tent was the dressing station, with facilities to handle half a dozen casualties at a time. There were four Italian Army Alpini officers: a surgeon, a physician, an administrative officer and a Catholic chaplain. They were supported by a small staff of medical orderlies, stretcher-bearers and cookhouse personnel.

Walter Doyle in Italy, 1944.

When Italy had surrendered to the Allies in early September, 1943, many Italian troops simply took off their uniforms and returned to their home villages. But several divisions in the South preferred to change sides and join the Allies in fighting the Germans. The British were disdainful of the idea that surrendered Italian units could take a place in the Allied lines. But the U.S., with its large Italian-American population, felt it expedient to make use of the units. Only a few Italian units supplied by U.S. Fifth Army were used.

The day after Tom and I arrived, artillery activity stepped up, and soon casualties began arriving at our post. But this was still April, and soon there was rainfall that brought General Mud on the scene, and the attack slowed down.

The four Italian officers kindly invited us to have dinner with them each evening. Breakfast and lunch were served in a chow line at the cookhouse, but dinner was different. The six of us sat at

a folding army table in the main tent. There was red wine, and always spaghetti – with a main dish in which the cook showed his ability to turn army rations into semi-gourmet dishes – with sauces he concocted. The staple meat was U.S. Army Spam, or pork luncheon meat in cans.

Our four Alpini officers were the senior officer, who was fortyish; a tall, thin, intense, serious surgeon from Torino; a handsome, black-haired Milanese doctor in his thirties who sported a pencil-thin moustache and a skeptical smile; a slim, fair-haired, blue-eyed administrative officer in his twenties; and the Cappellano – the Catholic chaplain from the Abruzzi who was a gloomy, introverted man in his forties.

By day, there was plenty of ambulance work. The Italian troops made a series of attacks, and we carried a steady stream of casualties.

At the dinner table, one of the officers would concentrate on playing up the Cappellano's sexual prowess. When we joined the unit, the priest had just returned from leave in Naples and the officers questioned him about what he had done in the big city.

"Did you go to visit the pretty girls up in the Vomero? That's where some of the best girls are. And you have a reputation! I hear the girls call you Cappellano Pork Luncheon!" Then the lieutenant turned to Tom and me and said in mock seriousness: "It's true. I speak as his doctor. The Cappellano is like a Pork Luncheon." Through all this, the Cappellano sat stiffly, looking stern and staring into space. He seemed used to this. Tom and I kept our smiles in check, in the interest of international amity.

The push up Monte Marrone was governed by the weather as much as by the German defense. Just after dark one evening, I drove up the mountain road. There was a fierce thunder-and-lightning storm raging, with high winds and sheets of rain in the flashing skies. I pulled into the parking area and saw that Tom's ambulance was off on a run. I sprinted through the rain to the main tent, about 50 feet away. Once inside, I was taking off my jacket when there was a tremendous cracking noise of an explosion, and it was certainly not lightning. The officers headed for the slit trench inside the tent and I was too startled to move.

I borrowed a rain cape, and went outside with the lieutenant and saw that my ambulance had taken a direct hit by an 88-mm shell. All four tires were flat and the far side of the ambulance was riddled and stove in by shell fragments. The Germans had fired only one shell, but with deadly accuracy. Back in the tent, we concluded that a German listening post had heard the sound of my engine, but in the dark could not say what kind of vehicle had arrived. Previously, there had been no shellfire directed at the Red Cross.

The next morning, the weather was clear. Tom drove up, walked around my riddled ambulance and told me with a grin: "Doyle, you will do anything to get out of work." In the afternoon, Ed Driver and Walt Brethauer, our HQ mechanical geniuses, arrived with their 15 CWT truck carrying four wheels with inflated tires. They took off my wheels and replaced them. Later, a tow truck from workshops came and hauled the wreck away. I returned to platoon headquarters for reassignment. The Italians drove the Germans off Monte Marrone a couple of weeks later.

Within a few weeks, Tom Durrance's enlistment with AFS ended and his former employer, *Time* magazine, hired him as a war correspondent with the U.S. Fifth Army on the Italian front. He wrote many distinguished dispatches. I re-enlisted for another six months with AFS in Italy. In early July, I learned that Don Harty, the driver Tom and I had taken over from, had been killed in action. I never discovered what became of the four officers and the Cappellano.

The 2006 Galatti Award Honors AFS Volunteers

The Galatti Award, named after AFS founder Stephen Galatti, is the most prestigious commendation granted by the AFS International Board of Trustees. Established in 1983, the Galatti Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service recognizes and honors community volunteers whose commitment and exceptional dedication have advanced the mission and goals of AFS at the grass-roots level.

The 2006 Galatti Award has been awarded to the following AFS volunteers:

Franz Greimel of Austria, whose involvement with AFS began in 1987-88, when he hosted a student from the U.S. He revitalized the volunteer recruitment process in Vienna. Thanks to his efforts, the Vienna chapter has been stabilized, with volunteers eager to live up to the AFS standards of quality and excellence.

Maria Aparecida de Barros Forini of Brazil, who started her AFS relationship as a host mother in 1977, and continuing as a volunteer helping her local chapter become one of the most honored in Brazil. Her work has enabled many Brazilian students to make the most of their AFS experiences.

Yasuko Araki of Japan, who has spent the last 49 years volunteering with AFS, starting as a returnee from Japan to Baltimore, U.S in 1956-57. Yasuko founded the AFS Kyoto chapter, where she has encouraged hundreds of AFS volunteers, inspiring them with her own spirit of volunteerism.

Nina Jackalyn Crawford of New Zealand has played many roles for AFS, starting when her daughter went on the AFS program to Japan. In 1983, she hosted a Japanese student, and since then has devoted her time and energy to volunteering for AFS New Zealand, for the benefit of both the national AFS and her local chapter in South Auckland.

AFS Salutes The 1946 Vision of The Founders

A luncheon at AFS International's headquarters on September 29, 2006 honored not only the founders of the organization in 1946, but also served to kick off the year-long 60th Anniversary Celebration. Attending were AFS trustees, drivers, volunteers and staff.

AFS drivers: Ward Chamberlin, Edwin Masback, Norman Eddy, Arthur Howe, Jr., and Dick Morrill addressed the audience after the luncheon. Arthur Howe emphasized the fact that AFS remains a viable and flexible organization, stating that: "AFS has a firm foundation in theory and in practice. All of us who have had experience with AFS, either in war or in peace, will testify to the power and the value of intercultural exchange programs. If there is anything that today's world sorely needs is people trained to have these qualities."

Norman Eddy cutting the 60th anniversary cake while Tachi Cazal, Anne Hitzegrad and Arthur Howe look on.

Gerhard Pfanzelter, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, and an AFS returnee (Austria to U.S.A. 1959-60), spoke of his AFS experience in Elk River, Minnesota. "This is the first of many celebrations that AFS will observe to mark this milestone," said Tachi Cazal, AFS International President. "Without our founders and what they decided during their historic reunion in 1946, we would not be here today," he added.

The Founders remarkable vision that put the emphasis on peace through understanding, was celebrated at this luncheon. Thanks to this vision, and the people who worked to keep it alive, AFS has been successful in its mission of having millions of people "walk and talk" together.

The Archives exhibit on the Founders and the 1946 Reunion was on display. The luncheon concluded with the cutting of a 60th Anniversary cake presented to the drivers by two AFS returnees, Stefano Sissoldo from Italy and Anne Hitzegrad from Germany.

A feature of the luncheon was the remembrance of Stephen Galatti's remarks – at the Driver Reunion held in New York on September 27-29, 1946 – to the drivers and representatives of the British and French armies that the AFS ambulance drivers had served. Galatti said:

"We look forward to further the understanding we know exists among free men of all nations. That is why we asked our distinguished guests to honor us with their presence. We hope they will send back word to their countrymen with this message: We were at your side during the war because we believed in you; we will remain at your side during peace because we know that peace can endure only if all of us can understand each other as we understand you."

The First AFS Bus Trip in 1948 *By DeWitt Morrill, IB 7*

Many of you have never heard about the bus trips. The first one took place in June 1948, shortly after the students had finished their first "American" year. One of them, Jean-Marie LePargneur from France, had gone a thousand miles directly west from New York to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. He indicated to a host family that he thought he should see more of America before returning home. AFS had the same idea, but we didn't know where the money would come from. Jean-Marie exclaimed, "I feel that anything is possible in the U.S.!"

With very little time to spare, AFS contacted former drivers in all the cities the proposed trip would visit, asking them to provide hospitality and programs. Carl Zeigler, an Italy driver, and his wife contacted Greyhound Bus Lines, which donated a bus and a driver.

Steve Galatti assigned Dot Field of the AFS staff to serve as chaperone for the girls, and Regis Gignoux as "crew chief" to manage the logistics. He tagged me as spokesman and money raiser, after I had gone to him on June 24, 1948, to repay an educational loan. I had no job yet, and asked him how soon he wanted the $600. "Now!" he said. I gulped. Then he startled me: "What are you doing?" "Nothing," I replied. "All right, you're going on the bus trip. Be here Monday morning at eight o'clock."

This was the first I had heard of the bus trip, and I had to borrow $40 from him to buy a new suit. Four days later, the bus left on its trip around America.

The trip was "launched" at Columbia University, where General Dwight Eisenhower was President. He asked Jean-Marie where he lived in France. "Caen," said Jean-Marie. "What happened to you during the bombing?" Ike asked. "I spent three days alone in a culvert under the road."

AFS students with General Dwight Eisenhower at Columbia University at the start of the bus trip, June, 1948.

Eisenhower scowled, and to a waiting press declared forcefully; "Bombing Caen was a mistake. I never thought it was necessary." Banner headlines and photos splashed across front pages, and radio news made it the top story of the day.

During the next 24 days, the bus traveled 6,000 miles and visited 19 cities from New York to the Rocky Mountains, then south through Texas to New Orleans, and back through Washington, D.C. to New York.

The students told their stories to the press, on radio, and to audiences assembled by our hosts. They sang songs of their countries, which brought thunderous applause. In particular, I recall the French students singing the Resistance song –"Un Sifflet Dans la Nuit" – softly whistling the refrain. American audiences were moved to absolute silence and some tears were seen. Memories of France under the Nazis were still fresh.

A large AFS banner decorated one side of the bus. As we traveled through Nebraska's vast plains, the students spotted riders galloping across the prairie. "Stop the bus!" they shouted. We found

a shaded intersection. The horsemen rode up and when they dismounted, we were surprised to see they ranged in age from 16 down to about 10. In cowboy gear. Real, live Wild West kids their age. Much excited conversation erupted.

In planning the trip, Bill Hooton had offered to hold a picnic at his family farm in New Carlyle, Indiana – about 50 miles southeast of Chicago. His mother could run it, he said, with help from all the other women in town – they'd put together a pot-luck country picnic for all the students and everybody's invited.

And they did! "There were something like 300 people there," Bill wrote, "all over the farm, on the lawns and so on. And the young people had a marvelous time. I put them in houses around the village. This changed the outlook of that whole little town. They had been very isolationist, very anti-European, very nervous about foreigners, and this opened it up. It was what we were trying to achieve – to build AFS as broad as possible."

In their comments at the end of the tour, this event stood out most in the minds of the students. They had seen and felt the heartbeat of America. They watched autos being made in Detroit, steel in a new mill near Chicago, drove to the top of Pike's Peak in Colorado, were escorted into Amarillo by a troop of police cars with lights flashing and sirens blowing, watched Big League Baseball, enjoyed flaming desserts at Antoine's in New Orleans, and toured the White House, where they received note pads inscribed, "Stolen from the desk of Harry S. Truman."

They were interviewed on 30 radio programs, photographed by 50 newspapers, featured in *Time* magazine and in an article in *American Magazine* by Bernard Foley, the bus driver. Money and offers to sponsor students began to flow in. AFS put down deep roots. Today, more than 360,000 individuals and an equal number of host families have had the AFS Experience. "Walk Together, Talk Together" does change people's attitudes and even national and international policies.

(DeWitt "Dick" Morrill served as an AFS ambulance driver in India–Burma from 1943-45. The First AFS Bus Trip took 24 days (June 28 through July 21, 1948). Thirty-two students from 9 countries (France, Czechoslovakia, Netherlands, Norway, England, Estonia, Greece, Hungary and Syria) participated in the trip. – Editor.)

Dick Morrill (extreme left) with students at Niagara Falls, July 1948.

Jean Paly (France), Kees de Kuijper (Netherlands) and Sarka Sramkova (Czechoslovakia) look at the bus trip route.

What AFS Meant in My Life

By AFS Drivers

Extensive and intensive involvement with AFS and its people, in both war and peace, has been the single most influential and rewarding organizational activity of my long, diverse and privileged life.

Arthur Howe, Jr., ME 2

Certainly my experience in the Field Service was maturing, and engendered hopes for the brotherhood of mankind serving with British, Poles, Italians, South Africans, Rhodesians and Indians.

John W. Leonard, CM 88

We feel incredibly privileged that from small beginnings, the idea of intercultural understanding has become a cause for so many people who see in it an opportunity to give, and in the process to be rewarded with the affection of other people.

Frederick Balderston, ME 37, IB 59-T

AFS 485 COY driver and ambulance in Austria, May of 1945.

I think of AFS as changing my whole life... If it weren't for AFS, I think I would have just become another stuffy Philadelphian... I came back to Philadelphia a completely changed individual. I still hope my values were changed for the better. I became a writer, a novelist.

Livingston L. Biddle, ME 32, FR 6

My experience as a volunteer in AFS ambulance units during World War II affected every aspect of my life from then on. I learned that with the right leadership, a good idea, and a volunteer spirit, you could accomplish wonders.

Ward Chamberlin, Jr., ME 37, CM 104, IB 59-T

My joining the AFS in 1942 and experiencing over three years overseas was an education. Driving an ambulance across the African desert and through Italy into Austria, in forward areas of the war and traveling throughout India exposed me and many other AFS drivers to new worlds and new ideas. In my working years and beyond, I have frequently called upon my knowledge of other cultures, gained during my years with the AFS, to more fully understand and appreciate a different point of view. This is what I wish to pass on to others; this is what the AFS can, and does, do so well.

Walter Brethauer, ME 19, CM 94, IB 59-T

My 18-month overseas association with AFS as a driver gave me an unforgettable insight into how people of other nations lived throughout the world. Such a cross-cultural window should remain viable for all young people everywhere, so that they may share the understanding of fellowship and peace among all mankind.

Merrill Hastings, Jr., CM 86, IB 59-T

Dad's AFS days remained among his most treasured memories. His experience in North Afri-

ca and the Middle East colored all the days of his life ever after. He was enamored with the country and the people and was an avid student and reader of everything he could get his hands on. *Katy Anderson, daughter of Egil Mack, Jr., ME 4*

As somebody said, "Do you want to be part of the problem, or part of the solution?" And AFS is part of the solution, so I'm deeply grateful for my experience with AFS.

Edwin Masback, Jr., ME 37

I believe I was the most immature eighteen-year-old on the face of the earth when AFS accepted me. During my service, I got to look at my own selfishness through the absolute necessity of working with others under difficult circumstances. AFS started me on a process of personal growth that has never stopped. Thanks! *Tony Ransdell, FR 4*

In Italy, during World War II, I took wounded Allied soldiers to hospitals and, in my free time, talked to and helped Italian civilians. Then, on the day President Roosevelt died, our company was on a ship going to France. We drove to the liberated Belsen Concentration Camp, where we saw the results of the Holocaust. I took many survivors to hospitals. Many had been slave laborers, sent to the camp when their places of work were likely to be overrun by Allied forces. These experiences showed me the horrible effects of racism and aggression; they have remained vivid ever since.

Robert Scott, CM 81

The horrors of India and Burma – along with the tragedies of the human race observed elsewhere – totally changed life's course for me. Thanks to AFS, I had a drastic change in my perspective regarding what life is all about. I learned that a life of worth is not about me, but about helping the other guy!

Peter Minnock-Stewart, IB 1, IB 45

I am going to Paris on Nov. 10th to represent AFS WWII ambulance drivers at a ceremony marking the 60th Anniversary of AFS France, and the observance of Armistice Day on November 11th. This trip is my way of saying thank you to Steve Galatti and the others who made it possible for me to be a member of the Allied forces, and hold my head up high at a critical time in my life and that of our nation. This feeling of pride and recognition of my service has extended far beyond the time when, at seventeen, I joined AFS and sailed for Europe in 1944. I can think of nothing short of my family that has had such a meaningful influence on my life, as my serving as an AFS driver with the French Army in 1944 and 1945.

Arthur F. Williams, FR 4

AFS meant that I had the honor of being a participant in WWII. This honor to serve in the British Army with the 50th Royal Tanks, and to be with the unique "AFS" entity in Africa and Italy, was a very significant part of my life. I'll never forget it and I thank you, AFS, for giving me the opportunity.

Don Moffett, ME 34

Serving at the front in Italy shall always be a treasured experience in this life. At last, I had the answer whenever anyone in the future would look at me and say, "Where were you during World War II?"

Monroe A. Gilbert, CM 93, IB 59-T

As I look back through these many years, I realize that AFS played a great part in shaping my life. It has not only given me lifelong friends, but I think it set the stage for my career in international development. It is an honor to be part of the American Field Service – in the past, in the present and in the future – and may it continue to work to create a world with global peace.

Richard S. Kaynor, ME 4

My experience with AFS in Libya and Italy in 1943-44 was a seminal experience in my life, inspiring me to embark on a rewarding and adventurous 30-year career as a foreign correspondent.

During those years, I covered many of the historic events of that period, including the Occupation of Japan, the civil war in China, the decolonization of Southeast Asia, the reconstruction of a war-devastated Europe, and the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

Joseph Fromm, CM 40

I volunteered in the AFS because I was a conscientious objector in WWII. AFS allowed me to avoid the killing, but participate in the saving, of lives. Moreover, I benefited from the only good part of the battlefield experience; I made lifelong friendships.

Gene Vasilew, ME 32

Most of the years prior to WWII, I lived in the state of Washington, having been reared in the Walla Walla area. My social orientation likely would have been rural and small town, had I not found the AFS. What a socializing leap that was! Living in New York City until shipping out to Italy; associating with my fellow drivers, most of whom had college and large city backgrounds; experiencing the culture shock of India, and being exposed to British officers and British culture gave me a worldly perspective that had a profound impact on my aspirations, and resulted in a college education and a computer sales and marketing management career. AFS certainly raised my sights, and for that I will always be thankful.

Peter W. Melitz, CM 86, IB 59-T, B Plat. 485 Coy

My life has been influenced and enriched twice over by my AFS experiences, both during and after World War II. The first was the acceleration of my "growing up" process, while absorbing the sobering impacts of war as a 19/20-year-old driver in Italy and Holland. The values learned and the friendships made have been invaluable and have had a lasting influence on my life. The second, and more recent, has been the richly rewarding experience of assisting in the evaluation of the wonderfully gifted and giving young applicants for AFS scholarships and getting the feeling that maybe there's hope for this tired old world yet. The opportunity to contribute my small part in this great program is most appreciated.

Richard Sinclair, CM 88, B Plat. 567 Coy

Going to an audience with Pope Pius XII – with a hundred gun-toting soldiers saying "How soon is this guy comin' out?" – getting free rosaries at the door, though not religiously-inclined at age 22, interested me in Roman Catholic faith and history.

Oliver Barres, CM 47

Serving with the AFS in Calcutta after the abrupt end of WWII, I was thrust into seeing the horror of prison camps through the eyes and stories of many newly released Allied POWs. Sixteen of us were trying to reunite them with their units or families. These were British officers, mostly captured at Singapore, in tattered clothes and emaciated bodies, but who stood proud with the knowledge that they had survived years of captivity. Their composure affected me positively as I aged later in life.

Robert A. Sawhill, IB 57

My joining the AFS, as an ambulance driver at age 18 in 1942, led to three of the most important years of my youth. Serving with so many intelligent, interesting drivers; gaining so many first-hand experiences of Near East and Middle East societies; participating in a challenging Italian campaign; being posted to such a diversity of Allied troops from Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Poland, India, South Africa, and even from Italy itself; and finally closing my service in 1945 in the I-B camp in Secunderabad, I had had the privilege of living in a truly international world. All this was certainly to the greatest personal benefit, and it also helped me to prepare for a rewarding, lifelong career as a university professor. Finally, the AFS made possible some wonderful, lifelong friendships!

Forrest Williams, ME 37, IB 57

The War: A Ken Burns Film on PBS *By Ward Chamberlin, Jr.*

On Sunday, Sept. 23rd, 2007 at 8 p.m., PBS and public television stations across the country began broadcasting Ken Burns' 14-hour documentary on World War II, entitled "The War." The documentary is in seven two-hour episodes. On that first Sunday, and on three subsequent nights, the first four episodes will start at 8 p.m. and the same episode will be repeated at 10 p.m. The following week, the final three episodes will be broadcast in the same time frames starting on Monday, October 1st.

"The War" is the most highly publicized and promoted film PBS has ever broadcast, and it is hoped that its audience will exceed the previous record-holder, Ken Burns' "Civil War."

About five years ago, Ken called me and asked if I would agree to be interviewed by him about my experiences in WWII with AFS. Much of this interview is included in Episode 3 of "The War," which has been shown on Sept. 25th. I am really pleased about this because, hopefully, it will expose millions of Americans to the modest, but unusual role we played in that war. I hope that my AFS buddies will feel that I did justice to their efforts, and to those of our comrades who gave their lives or who were wounded in action.

I came to know Ken Burns in the early 1980s when I was running the PBS station in Washington, D.C. One afternoon, the receptionist said there was a man named Ken Burns who wanted to see me, and that he was an independent film maker. He had done one good film and I knew his name. He came in and, after the pleasantries, said he had heard that I was interested in American history, and that he was doing a film on Huey Long and needed funding help. Would I look at his rough cut? I did and saw right away that this was extraordinary talent. He told me how much (five figures) he needed to complete the film and in the best move I ever made in public television,

Ken Burns with Ward Chamberlin, Jr., New York, March 2007.

I took him in to our Controller and had him write out a check to Ken for that amount…No contract, just a hand shake. Later, my station helped with "Civil War" and other Burns' films and we became good friends.

In those early days, Ken had a keen interest in WWII and quizzed me about AFS and our experiences. That is how I came to be one of the 30 or 40 men and women who carry the film and tell about that war. This is an unblemished account, with much of it dealing with what was going on at the home front, as well as the battlefield. It is not all guns and battles. It is done from an American point of view. The story is told by those of us who were there, and there is little about the political and military leaders. I turn out to be the commentator on the Italian Campaign, which at the time I knew little about, just doing what we were ordered to do – in recent years I have become more knowledgeable. I am sure that this film will be of great interest to all of us drivers, and I hope that I have represented you well.

As a part of AFS' 60th Anniversary Celebration at the World Peace Forum at Columbia University on October 27, 2007, Ken Burns will lead a roundtable discussion with Ward, AFS drivers and Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba. For more information, please visit AFS 60th Anniversary Website: www.afs60.org.

First AFS Students to Japan in 1957 Reunite

After nearly five decades, six of the first nine AFS students hosted in Japan in 1957 reunited at Katharine Truax' home in Madison, CT in September 2006. Attending were Peter Bell, James Hauhart, Peter Martin, Elizabeth Rexford, Katharine Truax and Raisaburo "Rye" Watanabe from Japan. The returnees talked about what effect their AFS summer in Japan had had on their lives. Ebbe Skovdal, from AFS International, interviewed the group for the AFS Legacy Project.

Peter Bell, former president of CARE USA, the international relief and development organization, said, "My summer with AFS changed my life. It opened up a new world to me. Virtually my entire career has been dedicated to preventing or resolving conflict and the suffering attendant to it."

During the summer of 1957, nine U.S. students –the five who attended the reunion in 2006 and David Brudnoy, Joyce Bartschi (Wall), Joyce Nock and Arthur Lederman, traveled to Japan and experienced life living with another family in another country. Before the students' departure on June 15, 1957, Stephen Galatti addressed them during a farewell dinner in Los Angeles.

The students traveled to Japan on the SS President Cleveland and were chaperoned by Dorothy Field, AFS director of hospitality. During the trip, the group took a cram course in conversational Japanese. Arriving at the port of Yokohama on June 29, 1957, the AFSers were greeted by newspaper reporters and cameramen wanting to take their pictures and interview them. "It was a big deal," said Elizabeth. "The Asahi Evening News was a big paper and they sponsored a lot of our trip over there."

The first U.S.-to-Japan program was initiated in large part by Raisaburo "Rye" Watanabe (Japan to U.S.A. 1954-55) who, along with other Japanese exchange students, was so impressed with the "good will and support from the Americans" that they felt they wanted to reciprocate. Rye and AFS Japan returnees from the early years decided to invite Americans to Japan to stay with Japanese families, at least for several weeks, in the summer of 1957. Rye Watanabe's family hosted Peter Martin.

Looking back on her 1957 experience, Elizabeth Rexford said, "I soon discovered that human emotions and interactions are much the same, despite all the outward differences."

Katharine Truax, James Hauhart, Elizabeth Rexford, Peter Martin, Peter Bell and Raisaburo Watanabe reunite after 49 years.

AFS returnees of the Summer Program to Japan in 1957, 1958, and 1959 will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their experience at the 50th Grand Reunion in Tokyo, Japan on October 20th, 2007. This reunion is organized by Rye and the first Japanese students.

My Long Lost AFS Friend

By Maleeratna "Lee" Mahatharadol Plumchitchom
AFS International Trustee, Thailand to U.S.A. 1962-63

I was one of the 14 students – 11 girls and 3 boys – in the first group from Thailand to U.S.A. in 1962-63. After we finished our AFS year, we had a bus trip from Michigan to Washington, D.C. to meet President Kennedy. There were 36 of us, from 27 countries, on our bus. I just happened to sit with a Norwegian boy in the front row. We had a good conversation and became close friends. As our bus trip ended, we weren't sure we would have a chance to meet each other again, since our countries were so far apart.

After returning home, we were both busy studying, working and raising our families. We did lose contact, even though the memory of our friendship was still very clear in our minds. When the Board of Trustees met in Oslo to help AFS Norway observe its 60th Anniversary Celebration, I wondered whether I would ever find my long lost Norwegian friend. I remembered him so well, but could not remember his name. I did not have any of his pictures. I can only describe him as a very gentle man with fair skin and very blond.

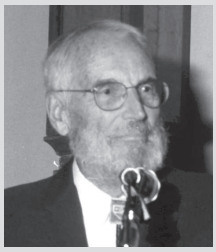
I knew that AFS had a very good archive, so I e-mailed Ebbe Skovdal for help. He then referred me to Eleanora Golobic, AFS Archivist, and Pernilde Vikanes, Norway's AFS Partner Director, for help. Finally, they found him. He also remembered that he had met a girl from Thailand in his bus. After getting his name and e-mail address, I e-mailed him and from then on, we communicated with each other. We decided that we had to meet each other once again. Either he would fly to meet me in Oslo, or I would fly to meet him and his family in Haugesund. I decided to fly to see him so I would have a chance to meet his family and see another part of Norway. The flight

Lee Plumchitchom with her Norwegian friend Sigved Gramstad, Haugesund, Norway, April of 2007.

was scheduled for 45 minutes, but the plane could not land in Haugesund because of heavy fog, so I had to take a bus and a ferry for 2 and a half hours from Stavanger to Haugesund.
We were so happy to see each other again and had a good time. We talked and talked about our trip. We were once again 17 years old instead of 62. He was very good at keeping all the newspaper clippings, the program of the bus trip and the list of our names on the bus, and all the names of those in the 1962-1963 year. I regret not finding him a long time ago. But I'm happy that I made a good choice in asking for help from AFS.

I have found my long lost friend, Sigved Gramstad, from Sauda, Norway who attended Redford Union High, Michigan. He is now a medical doctor, happily married to Magnhild, with 2 daughters and 4 grandsons.

What about you and your long lost AFS friend? Find that friend and bring back the memory—it's really worth it. AFS can help! You can also visit AFS' Find An AFSer Website: www.afs.org/afs_or/link/3035



WAR MEDALS
Thoughts On Receiving Two Medals In The Mail
***Sixty years after the war was over** **
By Jock Cobb, ME 26

War Medals
would seem too martial on my chest.
I'd rather wear
jagged shards of blackened steel,
the flying bits of crashing bombs and shells,
the shrapnel that killed
too many drafted boys too young,
spilling out their warm red blood
so quick
we could not save them.

There was no way to mourn
all those wanton tragic deaths;
we suppressed
our tears, our horrors and our fears
and feigning calm,
we staunchly carried on.

Those horrors mixed with fears,
long-festering inside the brain,
burst out at last, demanding,
"Wars must cease!"
we searched
this all-too-human world in vain
for any path to lasting peace.

Alas,
those same ancestral fighting genes
that once helped Early Man prevail
now lead us down the nuclear path
to self-destruct
and fail.

But there might be hope
if we could, each year, arrange
for a hundred thousand students
from all around the world
to join an Intercultural Exchange.

They'd spend a study year abroad,
living with a family who'd felt the ravages of war,
perhaps even lost a child,
or who valued peace so much that
they would gladly share
their love and hearth and home
with a foreign foster student every year.

Having learned to speak the local tongue
and shared their foster family's
life and love and chores and fun,
these students then might see,
and help the world to see, but not too late,
the truth we dimly saw
while sharing food and fears and fate
with frontline soldiers in the war:

Whatever be their flag,
their faith, their gold,
their language,
or the color of their skin,
down deep at heart
all humans are akin.

**Being a conscientious objector, I was a civilian ambulance driver with the American Field Service during WWII. These medals were belated recognition by the U.S. Army of my service with the American, New Zealand, and Indian infantry in the second bloody, but failed, assault on Monte Cassino, Italy, in February 1944.*

TOGETHER WE PLANT SEEDS OF TREES
ONE BY ONE,
ONE DAY A FOREST MAY STRETCH OUT

By Taufiq Ismail, Chair, Bina Antarbudaya/AFS Indonesia
Indonesia to U.S.A. 1956-1957

One Sunday, in the month of April in the year of 1996
I fell deep in thought
In Manhattan, after a conference on its Eastern shores
I thought about a landing right here forty years ago, in 1956
Indonesian high school kids, seven of them
By the Hudson River, the Neptunia ship dropped its anchor
We ponder about an idea,
"walk together, talk together, and ye shall have peace"
Does such a beautiful notion still have any meaning these days?
I gazed at the UN building on First Avenue, and doubts welled up
Across from this complex lies the headquarters of AFS
The source of this view

One Sunday, in the month of April in the year of 1996
I fell deep in thought
For forty years I saw people planting seeds
Seeds of leadership, hard work, hope and peace
In changing weather, often interrupted yet never quite stopping
Even if soil fertility did not always go hand in hand with clime

They now number in the thousands, appearing in many lands
This is an exchange of cultures weaving an extended network
Drawn on earth as lines of lush green woods

For forty years I saw people planting seeds
Untiring, in weather bright or foul
They all raise their faces towards heaven, in prayers
May these trees prosper and spread out into woods
Luxuriant, full of fruit and ever fostering fertility.

Model T's To War: 1914-1918 AFS WWI Film Project

Edward Klekowski, adjunct professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, and Elizabeth Wilda, Producer, AIMS Video Services at the University, have approached the Archives for material on AFS in World War I. The team is producing an hour-long public television documentary, "Model T's to War: 1914-1918," on AFS ambulance drivers in WWI, to be completed in 2008 – in time to be part of the 90th Anniversary observances of the end of the First World War in the United States and Europe. AFS welcomes the project and has made available its extensive archives of photos, memoirs and memorabilia. The filmmakers scanned several hundred AFS WWI photographs for the project.

Of the 2,500 World War I drivers, 250 were individually decorated for acts of heroism and service to France, being awarded the Croix de Guerre, the Légion d'Honneur, or the Medaille Militaire.

Ward Chamberlin, Jr., AFS Life Trustee and World War II driver, reports that the project will give credit to AFS, and help promote knowledge and understanding of AFS' origins.

Please note that filmmakers need funding to complete the film. If you are interested in supporting this project, please contact Ebbe Skovdal at ebbe.skovdal@afs.org or by calling 212-209-0931.

AFS Traveling Exhibit and Acquisitions

The AFS exhibit at the Nobel Peace Center, Oslo, April 2007.

An Archives – extensive photographic exhibit of 150 photos of AFS' past and present recently traveled to several Partners' anniversary events. The exhibit features historical photographs of the AFS volunteer ambulance drivers service in WWI and WWII, and the student program images from the first bus trip in 1948 through the present.

The exhibit was sent to the AFS Norway for the 60th Anniversary Celebration in April of 2007, and was displayed at the Noble Peace Center in Oslo during the launching of the AFS Peace Petition. In June, the exhibit traveled to AFS Iceland for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. AFS Iceland had it on display at the Reykjavik Town Hall.

If you are interested in borrowing the exhibit, please e-mail your request to Eleanora Golobic, Archivist and Alumni Relations Manager (eleanora.golobic@afs.org).

ACQUISITIONS

AFS Archives is fortunate to have received a number of personal collections and items relating to the history of the AFS in WWI and WWII. We gratefully acknowledge all donations. Listed below are some – but by no means all – of the recent gifts received by the Archives. Thank you for your cooperation in the perpetuation of your story.

Skipper Purnell (ME 39) donated a photographic documentation of his AFS service in the Middle East and Italy, 1942-1944. Purnell has been a photographer for 485 COY and used Leica and Iconta cameras in his work. This important collection includes several hundred negatives and prints.

Carolyn DeCoster donated WWI records of her father, Robert N. Slawson. Mr. Slawson served in France with USAAS Section 75. This documentation includes a diary kept by Slawson in 1917-1918, photographs, maps, memorabilia and transcripts of his letters from France, June of 1918-April of 1919.

Norman C. Kunkel (IB 5, CM 92-T) donated his musette bag and his book, "WWII Liberator's Life" (2006).

Roger Griswold contributed WWI memorabilia of his father's Roger Griswold, who served with AFS Section 2 in France in 1916.

An extensive collection of the late Ashley Olmsted (IB 1) and Everett Ripley (IB 1, IB 53) was a gift of Ann M. Gilman. This collection includes uniforms, insignia, decorations, AFS documents, publications, photographs and artifacts.

Wilbur Bernardi (CM 43) sent his WWII artifact and book collection containing the photographs of the AFS in the Italian campaign and at Cassino, 1943-1944.

Monica Cook sent AFS WWII collection of her late husband Thomas N. Cook (CM 79), which includes his British issue field jacket, cap and shirt.

An extensive photographic collection of the late Arthur Brawley (CM 68) was given by his wife Peggy Brawley. The photographs document Arthur Brawley's AFS service in Italy and Belgium-Germany, 1944-45 and include the photos taken during the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April-May of 1945.

Daniel F. Spallone (1921-2007)

Daniel F. Spallone in India, 1943.

AFS is saddened to report the death of Daniel F. Spallone (IB 3, CM 91-T), who passed away at 85 on August 20, 2007, in Middletown, CT. Mr. Spallone worked in the judicial system as a Judge for nearly 40 years. He was known not only for his involvement in the criminal justice system, but also for his public service.

Daniel Spallone was born on November 6, 1921, in Waterbury, CT. He graduated from Crosby High School and was a student at the University of Connecticut (Class of 1945) when World War II broke out. He wasn't able to enlist in the Army or Navy because of polio he had a child. He volunteered with the American Field Service in April of 1943.

Spallone was sent overseas with AFS India–Burma Unit 3 in July of 1943, and served with the British 14th Army in the Burma campaign. He was transferred to Italy with Unit 91-T at the end of August of 1944. He was attached to 485 ACC COY with the British Eighth Army in October of 1944 and participated in the Italian campaign. He was released from AFS and repatriated to the U.S. in March 1945.

Spallone returned to the University of Connecticut after the war and received a psychology degree. In 1960 he also earned his law degree from the University of Connecticut. He practiced private law in Hartford and later in Old Saybrook. In 1978, he was appointed to the Superior Court bench by Governor Ella T. Grasso and later served as justice of Connecticut's appellate courts. He was a resident of Deep River, CT.

WWII LAST POST 2006-2007

Richard D. Allemang, CM 67
Frank A. Bender, Jr., IB 55
Charles E. Book, IB 57
Edwin H. Cady, CM 47
William C. Cook, FR 3
Perry H. Culley, CM 42
Carl W. Harris, FR 4
Louis A. Heuss, CM 64
Eugene D. Hilton, CM 52
Merrill H. Johnson, ME 9, FFC
Richard S. Kaynor, ME 4
Egil Mack, Jr., ME 4
James W. Michaels, IB 1
Charles S. Miller, ME 4
Henry L. Moeller, Jr., CM 71
Edmund G. Munroe, IB 31
Jay L. Nierenberg, ME 15
Henry S. Peltz, IB 58
Howard H. Roberts, IB 57
Edgar D. Romig, ME 13
Leslie N. Scott, ME 32
Rogers V. Scudder, ME 32
Harrison L. Searles, ME 4, IB 4
Davis Spencer, IB 1
Robert E. Tscherfinger, CM 91
Edward O. Welles, ME 16
Augustus H. Wharton, ME 32

AFS Driver Campaign
Your Support Is Needed to Help Preserve The AFS Legacy

"From the growth of AFS since World War II, one can foresee the day when an important segment of the leadership of the world will share the powerful bond of an AFS experience. The objective of the AFS is to offer the world's promising young people an opportunity to participate in this great undertaking."

Arthur Howe, Jr. former AFS Presidentf and ambulance driver, 1964.

In 2007, AFS celebrates the 60th Anniversary of its first secondary student exchanges. Since 1947 more than 360,000 AFS participants have benefited from an AFS exchange. Among our distinguished participants are numerous ambassadors, foreign secretaries of many nations and leaders such as:

Jan Eliasson
(Sweden)
UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Darfur

César Gaviria
(Colombia)
Chief, Colombian Liberal Party, Former President of Colombia

Wolfgang Ischinger
(Germany)
EU representative for the Kosovo talks; Ambassador of Germany to the United Kingdom

Zalmay Khalilzad
(Afghanistan)
United States Ambassador to the United Nations

Tadatoshi Akiba
(Japan)
Mayor of Hiroshima and President, Mayors for Peace

Leela Ponappa
(India)
Deputy National Security Adviser, India

This past year, AFS asked its founding drivers to consider giving a gift to AFS. Almost fifty of you responded with your generous donations and helped raise over $20,000 to provide scholarships for AFS participants, strengthen AFS organizations, help AFS expand into new countries, develop programs, provide support to our Partners, and train more volunteers. Thank you!

If you have not had the opportunity to send your gift to AFS, or are considering an additional gift this year, please fill out the attached card and return it to AFS in the envelope provided. A reply card and an envelope has only been sent to AFS drivers. For further information on how to contribute to the campaign, please contact Ebbe Skovdal at AFS International or Margaret Hunt at AFS-USA. Ebbe can be reached at (212) 209-0931, e-mail at eskovdal@afs.org and Margaret can be reached at (212) 299-9000, ext. 1170, e-mail at mhunt@afs.org.