



# CONNECTIONS



Vol. 1, No. 2  
April, 1993

## SUMMER MEETING -- Fun, Food, and Friends



*The afternoon at the Rosewood restaurant was filled with good conversation and entertaining memories.*

What is there to do on a hot summer day in June? Well, a number of Alumni in the Chicagoland and Central Illinois areas joined together for a fun lunch. It was the Summer Luncheon. A little quick addition following lunch showed that there were 728 years of service represented at the Summer Meeting.

The meeting took place on June 22nd at the Rosewood Restaurant in Rosemont, Illinois. The location was selected to tie in with the American Stores Company Annual Shareholders meeting held that same day just four blocks away at the Rosemont Horizon Conference Center.

The first edition of the **Alumni Directory** was distributed to those who were in attendance. (See separate article on the new **Alumni Directory**.)

The accompanying photos show some of the people who were in attendance. Several people have suggested that it would be very nice if the captions with the pho-

tos would list the names of those people in the photo. We agree wholeheartedly. In subsequent issues (after the photographer gets an assistant to take names and notes) we'll include the names of the Alumni in the captions.

The accompanying column contains the names of those who accepted the opportunity to attend this luncheon. This will give you a "picture" of the group, even those who may not appear in the photos.

From discussions held with various Alumni at the luncheon it appears that most members are interested in maintaining relationships with those people with whom they spent so many years at work. Also, most (by this small sampling) are **not** interested in the current goings on in the company. It was also found that only a few of the members at the luncheon still have any stock in the current American Stores Company. (See separate article requesting your interests.)

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

The next luncheon in the Chicagoland area is tentatively scheduled for November 2nd. If plans remain unchanged, it will held on the southside at the Lexington House, 95th St. and Roberts Rd., Hickory Hills. As always, additional information will be sent separately to members.

Efforts are still underway to schedule a firm luncheon date in the Boston area for the Fall. Those members in the area will receive a separate mailing on this luncheon as soon as plans are finalized.

### WE GOT LETTERS AND EXCUSES...

We heard from a number of people who said they'd like to attend the luncheon, but for one reason or another they were unable to do so. There was a total of 24 people who took the time to respond that they would not be able to make it but were still interested.

One of the **flimsier** excuses came from Paul Cameron...he thought the distance was "a bit much for us." It was signed, The Cameron's, Lahaina, Maui. (I thought a **Maui** was some kind of fish. You know, a **Maui Maui**! But Tork explained that the fish was Mahi Mahi and Maui was some island island in the Pacific Ocean. I still don't understand why anyone would want to live on a lonely island. I think they'd much prefer Chicago or Fargo...Oh, well.) Yet I think the Camerons still had a "fishy" reason for not attending the lunch. After all, if they invited me to

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

lunch for just \$13., I'd be happy to show up on their door step...wouldn't you?

Another person we heard from was Mike Radtke. He was still working for Buttrey Food and Drug and couldn't get away (a likely story indeed). He'll be retiring as of January 31, 1994, but I'll bet you the \$13 he still doesn't come for the meeting after he and his wife relocate back to the Fargo - Moorehead area! After all, who would ever want to leave such a year around resort area like Fargo - Moorehead.

Stan King wrote on his reply that the 22nd was his and Evelyn's 63rd Wedding Anniversary, so they'd not be able to make it to the Shareholders meeting or the luncheon. (Really, Stan, if you two can't be a little flexible and change your plans for the Alumni Club, you two will never stick it out together as a married couple!!)

Seriously, congratulations on a magnificent marriage, (See a separate article for recollections by Stan of the earlier days at Osco.)

All joking aside, the Alumni Club is intended to help people maintain relationships with those people with whom they worked for so many years. If you can't make some of these functions that's understandable (except for Paul, Mike and Stan!). **Connections** is our way of providing you with the information and the vicarious experience of these affairs (for those who always wanted to have a vicarious affair).



*Eating is truly a "social experience" when a bunch of former employees get together.*



*An early arrival assures plenty of time to meet people as they arrive for the luncheon meeting.*



*Some people always stand to serve their fellow Alums.*



*Whether before the meal is served or after, table hopping is part of the agenda.*



## THOSE ATTENDING THE SUMMER LUNCHEON

The names are alphabetical order. Where an Alumni brought a spouse the

Alumni's name is listed first, followed the spouse's name:

Todd Baumruck  
Loretta & Arthur Blank  
Marvin & Doris Brown  
Mary Childs  
Marian J. Connolly  
Jean Crowder  
Al and Jo Dale  
Ron Dilger  
Rex Dobey  
Ken & Shirley Fletcher

Lou Frantzen  
Fred & Mary Gaier  
Martha Hardt  
George Hilden  
Steve & Sally Hoffman  
June Hunt  
Lucille Jasen  
Jim Johnson  
Lottie Jorgensen  
Betty Kelly  
Bill & Shirley King  
Audrey Korinek  
Betty Letarte  
Henrietta Muzzillo  
Marge & Paul Narsutis  
Carol & Len Peterson  
Mary Quinlan  
Jane Rosenthal  
Joe Saul  
June Schultz  
Norine Skala

Anne Sorci  
Jeane & Lou Sorensen  
Mae Strainer  
Bernie & Joan Weinberg (both are Alums)  
Grayce Shields

## WHAT'S GOIN' ON AT AMERICAN DRUG STORES...

Not withstanding the comments from a number of Alumni that news of the current goings on at American Drug Stores is not news for them, here are a few things some of you may find interesting:

*Continued on page 3*

Continued from page 2

**55 New Stores for the Central Region.** It was announced by American Stores Company that American Drug Stores, Inc. has agreed to purchase the inventories, fixtures and prescription files for 110 Reliable Drug stores. Of this total, 55 will be operated as Osco Drug stores. These include 25 in Indianapolis, 16 in the Kansas City area and 4 in Moline - Davenport. In addition one or two stores will be operated in Elkhart, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Wichita, Topeka and Rockford.

**Expanded Growth Program.** Beyond the acquisition of Reliable (or any other equitable acquisitions) American Drug Stores will open 31 to 46 new stores this year. In addition, there will be 71 remodels to the new Vision format. It was the success to date for new and remodeled Vision formatted stores that lead to additional capital being made available by parent American Stores Company.

## LAS VEGAS TRIP UPDATE...

by Rex Dobey

The Las Vegas trip that was planned for this September will not take place because the Club came up short on people who were interested in going. We had almost enough people, but as they say "Close counts only in horseshoes and hand grenades." As a result, we are not able to follow through on this offering.

It points up the importance of expanding the base of members in the organization. The more members we have the greater the probability of reaching the trip minimums. Elsewhere in this issue we talk about drumming up membership. Think about it and help us plan for the future.

## CRUISE PLANNED FOR JANUARY 22, 1994...

by Rex Dobey

One of the drawbacks to the Las Vegas trip was the number of people who had to depart via air from Chicagoland. We had many people who

were willing to meet in Las Vegas and travel there by land.

Well, we've now got an offer that's hard to beat (and no one can drive there). It's a cruise. The sailing date is January 22, 1994. We'll depart on Royal Caribbean's majestic Sovereign of the Seas, featuring impeccable Norwegian service and cuisine. At 70,000 tons, it's one of the finest new ships in the world.

The one week cruise stops in St. Thomas, San Juan and Coco Bay.

Our special promotion enables the second person in the cabin to **CRUISE FREE**. This is not a misprint! The second person receives all meals and amenities on the cruise, they pay only a discounted airfare to get them to Miami. Their transfers to the pier are also free. Two get-acquainted cocktail parties are also planned.

**This special is open to all interested passengers** ...you do not have to be an Alumni Club member. You can bring friends and relatives! (You could even bring strangers and other non-related people!)

As the numbers show, you'll save between \$1,600 to \$1,900 per cabin!!! The first person pays \$1,879.00 for a level M cabin (an inside twin or queen). This includes the airfare to Miami from major airports. The second person pays only \$250 for the discounted airfare to Miami from major airports. For level L (inside twin or queen) the numbers are \$1,929.00 for the first person, \$250 for the second person. Level I (outside twin or queen), \$2,029.00 and \$250. Level F (outside twin or queen) \$2,179.00 and \$250. Port taxes of \$74.00 per person must be added.

As with the Las Vegas trip, you'll receive more detailed information in a separate mailing.



*The Sovereign of the Seas made her maiden voyage in 1988 and was the largest passenger cruise ship in the world.*

## THIS IS AMERICA...WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE IN YOUR CLUB!

Whether it's **Connections**, meeting agendas, social activities or just information, the Alumni Club Board would love to hear from you concerning your interests and needs. Jot us a brief note and send it to American Drugs Stores Alumni Club, P. O. Box 641, Cary, Ill. 60013.

## THE DIRECTORY IS OUT...

By Betty Kelly

The new Alumni Club Directory is now available. It was distributed to those who attended the June 22nd Luncheon at the Rosewood restaurant in Rosemont, Ill. You should be receiving yours shortly if it has not already been received by the time you get this newsletter.

The publication, which will be reissued every six months, is **not** a membership directory. It lists the names of all known people who have retired from Osco, Skaggs or American Drug Stores or who otherwise **qualify** for Alumni Club membership because they worked at least seven years full or part time for one of the organizations.

It contains an alphabetical listing and a separate list by state of primary residence. Please take the time to check your own entry for accuracy. Then, check the alphabetical listing for those people you know who should be included in it. If you find that a name has been omitted, or a correction needs to be made, contact the Alumni Club at P. O. Box 641, Cary, Ill. 60013.

Lastly, if you know one or more people who are listed but you recognize that they are not now members of the Alumni Club, please call or write and invite them to become a member.

We need to have as many qualified people as possible join our growing organization. The larger the base of people the more programming and travel offers we can provide.



Continued on page 5

## SPEAKING OF STAN KING...



*Stan King and his wife Evelyn celebrated their 63rd anniversary on June 22, 1993. Stan and Evelyn play together in their retirement now just as they worked and planned together all their lives. Congratulations.*

Stan King had written Tork Fuglestad some time back. In that letter he noted that he and his wife, Evelyn, celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on June 22, 1992.

Associate Editor of **Connections** Dona Blunt contacted Stan and asked him his recollections of the earlier days at Osco.

**The pre-Osco days...** Stan worked with L. S. Skaggs, Senior at his Skaggs United Stores. He began as a Saturday "aid boy" when a freshman in high school. He helped L. S., Senior build displays and oil the floor of a new store they were moving into.

He recalls meeting Sam Skaggs (current Chairman of the Board of American Stores Company) around 1929 when the young L. S. Junior was only six years old. During this time he also met and worked with C. J. Call, the future founder of Sav-on Drugs.

During the early years Stan introduced Sam Skaggs to a young lady named Alene. She's now Mrs. L. S. Skaggs and is active on the Board of American Stores Company.

Stan worked with Safeway Stores (after Skaggs United Stores merged with Safe-

way) until he left to join Mr. L. S. Skaggs, senior in the new Drug store operation he opened in Salt Lake City. Sam Skaggs, Junior worked in the store with Stan at the time.

During WWII Stan was in the Navy assigned to a California base. There he met Tom Long and in his spare time supervised his drug stores (Longs Drugs of California). Stan mentioned that Tom Long and his brother had received a loan from his brother's father-in-law, Mr. M. B. Skaggs, in order to open their first stores.

### **The early Osco days...**

In 1947 Mr. L. S. Skaggs, Senior, asked Stan to visit with L. S.'s brother in Minnesota who had funded the opening of a new operation called Payless Drug (the precursor of Osco). Working with L. L. at the time was Paul Straton. He joined the new organization and moved to Waterloo to manage that store.

His assistant was Harry Vasconcellos, or Vass as everyone called him. Stan and Vass worked for months in remerchandising the store, changing fixtures and placement, adding new items and clearing out food merchandise.



*This is the Waterloo store that Monday morning in March, 1948. As Stan said, "it put Waterloo on the map" at the time.*

By March preparations were completed and the first promotional ad was placed in the Sunday Waterloo paper. That Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. there were at least 200 people standing in line to get into the store. Three policemen were called to control the crowd. The planning and hard work paid off, it was a success.

In 1948 Stan became a district manager for the Iowa district and began hiring pharmacists, who like Vass, could manage the stores and still have the potential to help grow the business. Lou Frantzen, Ron Haas, Fred Dearborn, Byron Luke, Mike Radtke and Jack O'Connell were the fruits of his recruiting efforts.

Stan and his wife have been retired now for 31 years. Florida has been there home and for the most part in Boca Raton.

There's no question but Stan King is an integral part of the Osco past, along with such people as George Hilden and his "stable" of recruits. If you have any interesting anecdotes about Stan, George, or some of the other long-standing names in the Osco/Skaggs history, please take a minute and jot them down and send them to the Alumni Club.

### **We study history that we can learn from it and prepare for the future.**

(Editor's Note: A picture is worth more than a thousand words when it can recapture feelings and memories. If you have any old pictures, we'd sure love to have a copy to put in **Connections**. Have a copy print made at your local Osco or other photofinishing location, or send us the original and we'll make a copy and return your original. Share the past and enjoy the present through **Connections**.)

### *Continued from page 3*

Former employees who are non-members can purchase a Directory for \$10.00. (However, keep in mind that membership in the Club only requires a one-time \$10 initiation fee and a \$5.00 annual membership fee -- and the Directory is provided free every six months.)

The information is **not** available to people who were not former members of Osco, Skaggs or American Drug Stores. The information is not to be used for solicitation by any person.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*by Jim Johnson*

The balance in our bank account at May 10, 1993 was \$3,473.39. Subsequent deposits and expenditures were made in April for our quarterly newsletter and binders for the directory. Additional costs for our third luncheon are anticipated.

## ALUMNI PROFILE:

Dona Blunt also has created a format for **Connections** to take a quick look at some of our current Alumni so all readers can get to know these people or reacquaint themselves with these former associates. Called "Alumni Profile," **Connections** will take a quick look at several people each issue. This issue we'll visit with Henrietta Muzzillo and Steve Grossman.

### **Henrietta Muzzillo --**

Worked 33 years for Osco, 18 years at the Merchandise Mart and then Melrose Park, Franklin Park and Oak Brook. She was hired by Craig Allen to run the Burroughs Bookkeeping machine.

Henrietta was involved in the efforts to get Cost Plus Ten for retirees. While with the company she also was instrumental in the Employee Stock Purchase plan.

She admits that her first 18 (at the Mart) were the happiest. Her funniest memory was going to the office wearing two different shoes (now I won't feel so bad wearing two different socks!).

Henrietta enjoys her retirement, keeping a pace that she chooses to set. She keeps in touch with Julie Andrews, Lee Panek, Joe Saul, George Hilden, Stan King and Tork Fuglestad. Of course, she enjoys the Alumni Club because she can meet with all her old friends.

### **Steve Grossman --**

Steve will probably enjoy his retirement just as much as Henrietta. We just won't know until he retires and tells us. You see, Steve is an Alumni, but not a retiree. He's currently working at The Marketing Source where he is an equal owner.

He spent 9-1/2 years with Turn\*Style, Jewel Marketing Company and Republic Lumber.

Steve remembers the time he began selling items at odd-ball retailers to boost gross margin dollars. For the first six months people thought he was crazy. Then came the physical inventory and the gross margin results...from crazy to margin hero overnight!

Steve has joined the Alumni Club, as so many of us, to share times with old friends. If you're interested in seeing Steve, come on down to the next meeting in the Chicagoland area. He'll be there.

## JEWEL MARKETING COMPANY?

Here's a trivia question for some of you - just what was the Jewel Marketing Company. In Steve Grossman's Profile he mentioned that he worked for the Jewel Marketing Company. Steve was a Domestic buyer and a Republic Lumber buyer as part of his assignments while with the company.

The JMC was a centralized organization that provided support services to the operating companies of Osco Drug, Turn\*Style Family Centers and Republic Lumber Company. The services included all out-of-store support functions such as buying, advertising, personnel (before it was called Human Resources), accounting, etc.

Turn\*Style and Republic were sold. Turn\*Style to Venture and Republic to Handy Andy. The JMC was eliminated at that point and the people working there returned to the Osco organization.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY

*by Marge Narsutis*

We've had some nice letters and pleasant responses to our communiques regarding the Alumni Club. We're always glad to hear from any of you.

You may have some questions, as current or prospective members, and these are always welcome.

Some of you have volunteered to help, and this information we're retaining. Al VanWinkle from Jamul, California - a retiree from Sav-on - advised that if a Sav-on chapter is formed in Southern California, he would be interested in helping with it. Some of you advised that you're helping with grandchildren - many of you spend time traveling. Tom Nielson, living in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, offered his help and said that he enjoyed our newsletter - **Connections**. Ron Binger in Dickinson, ND, is a Buttrey Food Manager. Paula (Dahlquist) Golding is living in Highlands Ranch, CO. She advises that she may be living in Las Vegas later this year. She has twins and won't be able to help us for several years. (Editor's Note: Any one want to help Paula with her twins?) We have had notes with many of your membership applications. Keep these coming. We appreciate all of your offers of help and have notated this on our list.

We currently have members all over the United States, and we're happy to welcome any other ex-employees with seven years of service.

Any information that you would like or questions you might have about our club, kindly contact us.

Marge



## MEMBER- SHIP UPDATE

by Jim Johnson

As of May 24, 1993, your Osco chapter of the American Drug Stores Alumni Club had 206 members. We hope to have over 300 by the end of our first full year.



Membership is easy -- you need only have been employed seven years full or part time, and you don't have to be retired since former employees, who went on to other careers after Osco/Skaggs, are eligible. To qualify for all the benefits, just fill out a Membership Application and send it with your initial membership fee of \$10 now and annual dues of \$5 in 1994. For an application, contact: American Drug Stores Alumni Club, P. O. Box 641, Cary, Ill. 60013

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

by Jim Johnson

It's not too early to start thinking about your Officers and Board for the next fiscal year (January 1, 1994 to December 31, 1994). At our annual meeting to be held on November 2, elections will be held. Anyone interested in serving on our Board of Directors for 1994 should let your current Board know as soon as possible. We are looking for people interested in helping the Alumni Club, so please send in your or other names.

Here's the full text of Article IV, Section 4 of your by-laws:

**MEETINGS:** An annual meeting of the membership shall be held, on writ-

ten notice, in October of each year, or at such time as the Board may designate, for the purpose of electing directors and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting. If the day fixed for the annual meeting shall be a legal holiday, the meeting will be held on the next succeeding business day. Special meetings of the membership may be called either by the Board or by not less than one-fifth of all the active members of the club entitled to vote, for the purpose or purposes stated in the call of the meeting. Written notice of that date, time, place and purpose of each meeting shall be sent to each active member.



AMERICAN DRUGS  
ALUMNI CLUB  
P.O. BOX 641  
CARY, IL 60013