



ISB

NETWORK NEWS

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End of an Era

Many familiar Thai customs are slowly fading away. A familiar aspect of the Thai life, a favorite of ISB'ers, bargaining for cab fare, is quickly disappearing.

The taxi meter has arrived. In small numbers now, more are on the way and all Bangkok taxis will ultimately have meters. It's the dawn of a new age, when a ride across town won't require the skills of a U.N. negotiating team.

There is a down side to the meters; an entire facet of life in Bangkok will disappear into a memory.

Bargaining for a fare required rider and driver to engage in a dialogue at the very beginning of their encounter; "Bi SOI Ye Sip Kow, TohRi?", "Sip Baht, Pang Mak, Jet Baht!", "Bat Baht Mi Ow, Jet Baht!", "OK Bat Baht, By Laow." The usual good natured haggling made it easy for a conversation to continue as the taxi poked through traffic.

As teenagers in Thailand, our world was greatly expanded through use of the Thai cabs. We saw things, found places and experienced a side of life that our State-side peers never had an opportunity to experience.

A driver who might never address a stranger, had an opening to ask questions or discuss politics and life. Traffic jams became bearable, and one often got a whole new insight into life in Thailand.

With the taxi meter this has changed. The rider names the destination; the driver starts the meter. Nothing more needs to be said. Driver and passenger remain strangers. At the destination, the rider leaves the taxi, pleased at the lack of hassle and satisfied that the fare is just. Used to bargaining in the past, he also may leave with a feeling that something is missing, that part of life is no longer the same.

Robert Bridges '70

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ISB NETWORK INC.

**P.O. Box 3429
Annapolis, MD 21403**

Purpose: ISB Network Inc. is a not for profit organization dedicated to bringing Alumni of the International School of Bangkok together to support, maintain and create contacts between people that shared similar times and experiences in Bangkok, Thailand.

Rates: \$35.00 for 2 years. \$30.00 if paid before January 31 of the year of enrollment. Enrollment includes three newsletters a year, a mailing list with updates, access to voice mail (see below) and updates about reunions. Individual newsletters are \$2.50 each and mailing lists are \$12.00 each.

Access: Submit dues, by check, made out to ISB Network, to:

**ISB Network
P.O. Box 3429
Annapolis, MD 21403**

Please submit newsletter articles to:

**Keith Hatton
8201 Mapleville Road
Mount Airy, MD 21771
FAX: 301/829-0161**

Problems, questions, answers and/or general interest, contact the ISB Network Voice Mail at:
410/280-2421

ISB Network officials –
President:

David Wilkerson '71

Board of Directors:

Mimi Drake Parks '73

Jim Hanlon '73

Babette Trout Dammon '72

Jed Davis '70

Robert Bridges '70

John Dammon '69

Sarah Lynn Barringer '68

My Turn**Reunion – By Phil Mahaffey**

1

You'll find the storyteller in Sante Fe, any shop near the Palace of the Governors. A clay figure, seated, Native American, usually female. Sometimes not. Always her mouth is open, telling the story of the people. Always smaller figures sit in her lap, on her shoulders. They have ears to hear the story. It flows from their mouths like music. The music places them in the world.

2

That picture in the Erawan – it's not me. Back then I wanted to accept myself. After twenty years I don't know what to make of a sunrise on a snowfield in the Tetons, fly fishing for rainbow on the Malheur, losing a good woman, losing a year to scotch, nights I read poems till dawn, nights I can sleep only if I leave on all the lights.

3

Geography defines us in ways we don't expect. In Bangkok, I lived 800 miles from my family. So it was from you I learned how to shoot a basket, when to walk away from a fight, why getting caught was the reason for the race across the dark field at the Sadie Hawkins Dance.

4

Geography defines us in ways we can't explain. Back among farangs, I gave up talk of samlors, elephants pulling stumps in the forest, pigs in wicker baskets strapped to a motorcycle, standing for the King's Anthem at a movie. I moved from South Carolina to Texas, Oregon to Washington, thinking I'd start a new life in the pine forests and rolling prairies of the West.

5

I wanted one world, one music in my head, not the smell of tapioca fields when I drive to the beach, as if Pattaya lay just beyond the trees. I wanted the cold rush of trout rivers, not the khlongs steaming after rain. I thought I had left it all behind, but the news of the reunion dragged at me like an undertow.

At the Reunion, you showed me a world can contain two kinds of music, or more. There is no way to tell our story except with many voices.

"My turn" will be a regular column to give everyone a chance to share special stories with the rest of the Network. Here is your chance to get stories in to us. Please support the Newsletter with anything you find.

Thank you Phil for your contribution.

ED

ISB Teen Club Band Reunites

A group of individuals that played in Teen Club Bands during the '68-'72 school years have formed a group. This group has been working on a play list that will span the late sixties and early seventies. The band is going to perform at our Clearwater, Florida Reunion.

We are interested in reuniting former Teen Club/School bands from the 50's to present, and having them perform at our upcoming reunion in Clearwater or any other future reunion. If interest warrants, we plan to make this an ongoing reunion activity in the spirit of the Teen Club/School bands of the past.

Those who might want to have a band at the Reunion can contact Dave Wilkerson '71 (615/242-2925) in Nashville for information.

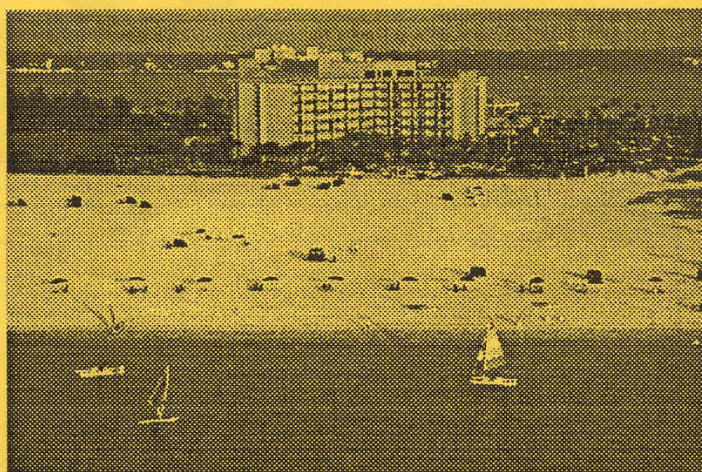
Video

A documentary video on the history of ISB, 1950 to the present, is still in the works. We have large holes that require information from the early 80's on. We are looking for qualified people to be interviewed in Washington, D.C. the first week of June. The deadline for interested parties is May 15, 1994. Contact Lynn Barringer at 202/686-5684.

Clearwater Reunion August '94

This is the year of our great reunion at a beach in Florida. The reunion dates are from August 4 through 7 and it will be held at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater. The hotel is located on the beach. This should be our best reunion to date.

As always there are abundant places to go in the area if the beach isn't your cup of tea. Busch Gardens, probably the most famous, is located 20 minutes from the hotel. A game of volleyball, a beer and a lounge chair are in order for this person.



View of beach with hotel in the background. The beach is 50 yards wide.

Tentative Schedule of Events

Thursday, August 4

12:00pm – 6:00pm	Early Registration
6:00pm – ?	Dutch treat dinner or activity of choice

Friday, August 5

9:00am – 6:00pm	Registration
1:00pm – 4:00pm	Possible tour
6:00pm – 7:30pm	Cocktail reception – cash bar
7:30pm – ?	Off site group dinner parties

Saturday, August 6

8:00am – 1:00pm	2nd ISB Golf Outing
9:00am – 1:00pm	Registration
10:00am – 4:00pm	Beach party
6:00pm – 7:30pm	Cocktail reception – cash bar
7:30pm – 9:00pm	Dinner
9:00pm – 1:00am	Program/dancing

Sunday, August 7

9:30am – 11:00am	Farewell breakfast/business meeting
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Classes Celebrating Special Anniversaries

'64	30 years
'69	25 years
'74	20 years
'79	15 years
'84	10 years
'89	5 years

If you have any questions about the golf game please contact Deb Twing (415/962-4711). Contact Mimi Parks (912/244-2615) with all other questions about the reunion.

House Games Slated for Clearwater Reunion

The 1994 ISB REUNION is just around the corner. Clearwater, Florida, here we come. I'm sure I'm not the only one who is getting excited about it. I can't wait to see all of you and can't wait to meet old new friends.

With the subject at hand let me tell you what this is all about.

The committee decided that this year we wouldn't have a scheduled outing planned on Saturday, August 6th. This way, we could all hang around the beach like we used to do in Pattaya and have a relaxing day (food, drinks and music). Well, for those of you who need to be doing something, an idea has been suggested.

Do you remember the Yellow, Blue, Green and Red house system at ISB? We all competed with each other instead of other schools like they do here in the states. Yes, you guessed it . . . we're going to do it again! The games will begin early Saturday morning with a golf scramble at a nearby golf course (rental clubs available) followed by Tennis, Volleyball, Tug of War and Horseshoes.

On Friday when you register, there will be a place for you to sign up for any and all the games you'd like to participate in, along with more detailed information. Winners and prizes will be announced Saturday night at dinner!

The golf scramble and tennis match will be done on a first come basis, due to the limited number of people

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Music Programming Assistance

We need your help with reunion music programming and/or reunion music play lists. In the past, there have been problems with hired D. J.s understanding our group. This year, in lieu of outside hiring, we have chosen to lease a sound system, and program our own music. This music programming will be used in addition to the live music already slated. Cut out or duplicate this form, then list, in order, your ten favorite music selections.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Send the completed form to: David Wilkerson, c/o Techstar Services, 750 Cowan St., Nashville, TN 37207 or fax it to 615/242-9528. Your selections are due by July 1, 1994.

(Continued from page 3)

we can accomodate. If you want to be assured a spot please call me at 415/962-4711 (this is my work number, and the answering machine is on 24 hours a day). For golf and tennis, we will need your handicap and level of competence to fairly divide the teams. For those interested in golf and/or tennis on Thursday or Friday, you can contact me for local rates and locations.

If you have a request as to which house you'd like to belong to, let me know and I'll do my best to accomodate you. The rest will be divided randomly.

This will be a great reunion . . . I can feel it!

See you all soon!

Deb (Twing-Boyajian)



View of the hotel from a beach dining area set for a special banquet

Introducing Reunion Consultants and Reunion Notes

The ISB Network is pleased to announce that we have signed a contract with Reunion Consultants to do our 1994 reunion in Clearwater. Gila Erving Montford is the President of the company and is an overseas brat. She graduated from Nuernberg High School in Germany in 1966. We have all met with her and planned the best beach party the Network has ever had. You should have received all of the information about the reunion from Reunion Consultants by the time you receive this newsletter.

The reunion will be held at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort which is located on Clearwater Beach. The hotel is a 25 minute drive from Tampa International Airport.

Local attractions of interest include Busch Gardens, which is located in Tampa. Disney World, Sea World, MGM and Universal Studios are all located an hour's drive away.

In addition to the classes celebrating their special reunions (listed on the previous page), the Network will be celebrating its 10th anniversary!

See you there!

Mimi Drake Parks

Newsletter Editor Change

The Board of Directors, along with all the indebted alumni of ISB, would like to gratefully acknowledge and thank Bob Bridges for his dedication in producing our newsletter for the past six years. We appreciate all his outstanding efforts and excellent work. Thank you!

In a 'passing of the torch', we want to welcome Keith Hatton, Class of 1970, as our new editor. Keith is in management at a large software firm and currently produces the newsletter for his church. His creative experience will greatly benefit the Network. We appreciate his acceptance of this role and look forward to a long relationship.

David Wilkerson

Corrections and Additions

When the mailing list was sent out there was an oversight on the list of Class Representatives. Please add the following people to your list:

Gary Kokensparger '69

Mark Sparrow /Sharon Black '64

Shirley Lee Kennedy '77

Joe Myers '71 (Joe's phone number is also incorrect. His correct number is 704/528-3298)

These people have been working hard to find new people and promote our reunion. We would like to thank them for all their help, and please keep up the good work.

Dave Wilkerson sends his apology.

INAUGURAL ISB THAI DINNER CLUB

Starting this February, we are kicking off our ISB Thai Dinner Club. We plan to have several dinner gatherings in various cities throughout the country at a local Thai restaurant. We will list the dates, times, location, and host person. All you have to do is show up, pay for your own meal, and have a great time! Here is a list of some of the first ones:

New Jersey:

Four Seasons in Piscataway (908/819-8787) on Saturday, May 14th, at 5pm. Contact Jim Hanlon at 908/469-6748. The Four Seasons will remind you of a classy "shack", with great food at reasonable prices. It also has a market so you can get the ingredients to try your own Thai food.

Houston:

This dinner will be held on May 7th at the PATU Restaurant in Rice Village. Michele Remmers Lockwood will be the contact for the 5pm dinner. The PATU Restaurant has a great Thai food buffet, and they love ISB'ers. Contact Michele at 409/935-2550.

Chicago:

The gathering will be held on May 14th at the Taste of Siam Restaurant, located at 600 South Dearborn in Chicago at 6pm. Please contact Penny Shelton-Hoffman at 312/427-6585.

Seattle:

Please contact Debbie Dietrich Faith for dates and times at home at 206/277-1267.

South Georgia/North Florida:

Contact Mimi Drake Parks for dates and times at home at 912/244-2615.

If you are interested in serving as the contact point for a dinner club in your area, please contact Jim Hanlon on the Voice Mail or at his home (number is listed above).

ABOUT YOU

Tony Grady '73 was promoted to LTC U.S. Air Force and reassigned to fly a desk at the Pentagon. Class of '73 believes he will be our "Colin Powell".

Dori Ahlborn '67 was married.

Janet Guyer '73 traveled for six months throughout the United States reporting on AIDS in Thailand. She recently returned to Thailand and will be working for the Church of Christ in the area of AIDS and training.

Michael Nebeker, Alumni / Development Director for ISB, has left Bangkok and is now the Development Director for The Waterford School in Sandy, Utah.