

ALUMNI NOTES *continued*

DR. JOSEPH D. BISSELL, '64 G, has been promoted to associate professor of oral medicine at Emory University in Atlanta.

JOHN W. CARSON, '64 CE, and his wife, Carolyn, recently opened the Learning Tree Child Care Center, a middle-income day care center in Northeast Philadelphia.

CAROLE J. DAVIS, '64 CW, received her doctoral degree in child development and clinical evaluation from Bryn Mawr College.

DR. ROBERT A. GOLDMAN, '64 C, Newton (Mass.) periodontist, was certified as a diplomate of the American Board of Oral Medicine.

WARREN A. GOLDSTEIN, '64 W, who received his LL.B. degree from the Tulane University School of Law, is a partner in the New Orleans law firm of Stone, Pigman, Walter, Wittmann, and Hutchinson. He is also a member of the part-time faculty of the Tulane University School of Law as lecturer on Federal Courts.

DR. HARRIS HAYMAN, '64 C, has finished his active-duty obligation with the Navy as a flight surgeon and is now in family practice in the Malvern (Pa.) area.

DR. PATRICIA C. KENSCHAF, '64 Gr, has been appointed an assistant professor of mathematics in the School of Mathematics and Science at Montclair (N.J.) State College. She was the founder and first president of Milldam Nursery School, a cooperative school in Massachusetts.

CHARLES C. MARTINI, '64 WG, Broomall, Pa., has been appointed director of marketing services for the Colonial Penn Group. He is a director of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Marketing Association.

CHRISTOPHER D. OLMSTEAD, '64 C, has become a partner in the Atlanta law firm of Shoob, McLain, and Jesse.

ROBERT H. PLOTKIN, '64 EE, Silver Spring, Md., has joined the United States Department of Justice as a patent trial attorney in the civil division.

JOAN COULBORN STEVENS, '64 CW, received her doctorate in French literature from Bryn Mawr College.

NANCY HOBBS DEMAND, '65 Gr, received her doctorate in Greek from the University of Vermont.

DAVID R. KOTOK, '65 W, is a partner in Cumberland Advisors, a private financial management firm in Vineland, N.J.

RICHARD SOFMAN, '65 W, assistant varsity wrestling coach at Montclair (N.J.) State College, represented the United States in the lightweight wrestling category at the Maccabiah Games held in Israel last summer. He was one of nine contestants to win a gold medal, his second in Maccabiah competition.

WILLIAM L. STAPLES, '65 WG, was promoted to vice president in the commercial banking of the Continental Bank of Chicago.

MARY JANE WILLIAMS, '65 CW, Penn Valley, Pa., former assistant director for annual giving at the University of Pennsylvania, then associate director of development at Haverford College, has been appointed director of development for the Medical College of Pennsylvania.

JOSEPH GARY ADLER, '66 C, who received his doctorate in history from Case Western Reserve University, is now on the faculty of Touro College in Manhattan.

Peter Dechert's new thing is conservation in the Southwest

Peter Dechert, '48 C, '55 Gr, looks like a good advertisement for second careers. Unless you figure Dechert is really working on his third career by now. One way or another, he talks about what he does with a degree of fervor that a lot of people have misplaced somewhere along the line by the time they've done the same job for 20-some years.

For the past several months Dechert has been president of the newly-incorporated Southwest Foundation for Audio-Visual Resources in Santa Fe, and he has been devoting most of his time to trying to keep one jump ahead of the leveling-out process which is inexorably blurring the boundaries between the three separate cultures—Indian, Spanish, and Anglo—which make his part of the country an interesting place to be.

"The way of life of the Anglos, who took over in 1845," Dechert says, "was completely different from the Spanish way of running things and from the Indian way of running things, and it's required accommodations all along. Time is just plain leveling things out."

Technology has accelerated the process. Dechert says that, "in general, anything that could be replaced by a machine at less labor is being replaced. All the old-fashioned alternatives tend to die out—and you certainly can't hate anyone for letting them die out: it's easier to buy a pan than to build a pot, easier to drive a pick-up—and more comfortable—than to ride a horse, certainly easier to kill a deer with a rifle than with a bow and arrow." But as cookware from Sears replaces Indian pottery, and chemical dyes replace vegetable ones in Indian weaving, and cinderblocks replace adobe in the construction of the Spanish hill villages, there is a gradual attrition of the constellation of details that, taken together, constituted and expressed a way of life. Dechert doesn't want to stop progress; his point is that the traditions and techniques and artifacts that are slowly passing out of use ought not be allowed to disappear unnoticed and unrecorded.

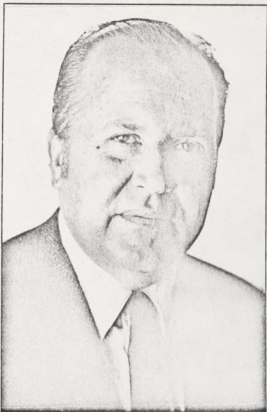
The foundation, which he and a number of like-minded people founded this year, was set up, to quote from its by-laws, to "assemble as a resource for public education and scholarly research, conducted by itself and with others, a continuing photographic and audio-visual record of the people of the Southwest, their arts, their crafts, their ways of life, and the relationships between their ways of life and the land on which they live."

Dechert has three programs underway now, and a fourth on the back burner awaiting funding. The first involves photographing the best examples of Indian arts and crafts being done in the area, so that when the objects themselves are dispersed—Indian arts have recently become a hot property on the national and international art market—some record of the evolution of style and technique will remain in the

Southwest. Another project involves photographing the High Road to Taos, an area of old Spanish hill villages which can be expected to be even more quickly "leveled out" once a new tourist route is put through. A third recording project involves the ghost town of Madrid—pronounced with the accent on the first syllable—a nearly deserted coal-mining town slated to be restored as an art and film-making colony and tourist attraction. Yet another project involves putting together a locating index to art objects in the area.

When Dechert came home from the Second World War, he applied to the Law School. His father is Emeritus Trustee Robert Dechert, '16 C, '21 L, '58 Hon, who, Dechert says, "graduated from the Law School when he was 20 or 21, became one of the biggest lawyers in Philadelphia, and always wanted me to be a lawyer." At the last minute, Dechert decided he might rather teach, and applied for a leave of absence from the Law School—"which as far as I know I'm still on"—to study English. After seven years of graduate work and teaching undergraduate English, he started looking for a way to combine his academic experience with photography, which he'd been doing since he was nine, and ended up specializing in photography for educational and non-profit organizations. In the 1960s many of his photographs appeared in the *Gazette*.

"But I'd always wanted to go West," he says. He had attended the Los Alamos Ranch School, outside of Santa Fe, and had family in the area. In 1968, he and his wife pulled up stakes and moved, and he took a job as assistant director of the School of American Research. They've lived it.



PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

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Dear Laura - I'm sending this not because it's about me but because it represents the considered reactions of an interviewer who talked with me about the Foundation last summer and decided she wanted to write it up for the Univ. of Penna. magazine. As such it sheds a different light on the Foundation from what the folder which I sent you says. I'm sorry - as will be my colleagues on our executive committee - that you changed your mind about accepting what we felt was the finest way we could pay you tribute as a progenitor in spirit of what we're trying to do

as well as a very distinguished practitioner, and I'm
sure I speak for all of us in hoping you'll accept this
very minor (and unentailed) honor — which is nonetheless
the best honor we can come up with as a group — come
February next!

Best,

H.