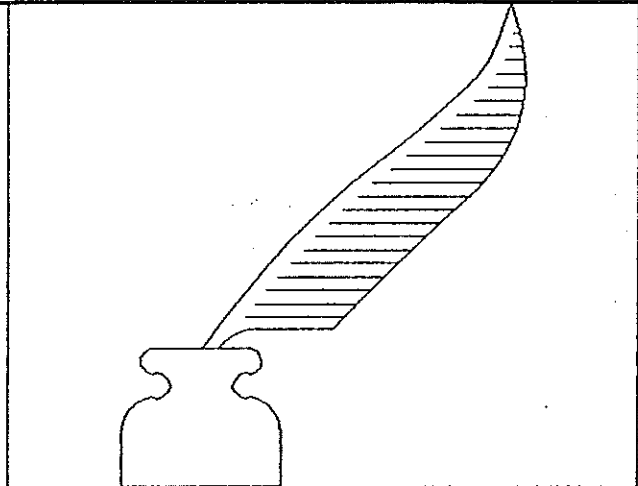


THE BERLIN BRATS NEWSLETTER

c/o Laura (Coats) Thornton
744 Poe Street
Azle, TX 76020

(817)444-1664



Hi Y'all! (That's "Hello" in Texan!) Hope you're pleasantly surprised to hear from us.

Well, as you can see, we've gotten organized enough to have a name and address. The name "Berlin Brats" seemed applicable since we've all been called "military brats" in the past! We'll have a better logo later...when I can get my computer program to work right!

At any rate, this letter is being sent to you to let you know what the other Berlin Brats have decided about getting organized. This is what we decided:

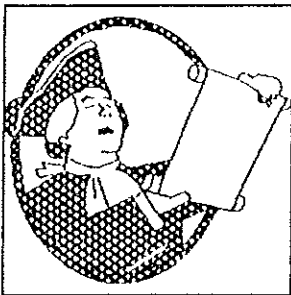
- 1) Our next reunion will be in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area in 1996.
- 2) We will send out newsletters two times a year. If you want to receive one, you should send in a mailing fee of \$10 per year. This \$10 will cover postage, printing, and gas for running around. Half of it will be put in a fund toward the deposits for the next reunion. It will be credited to you, if you attend.
- 3) The newsletter will include updated addresses, so you guys can keep in touch with each other. (If you want to receive the newsletter, but don't want your address published, please stipulate.)

If this is the first contact you've had with our group, I will waive the \$10 fee. It would really help, though, if you could send me any addresses you have of other former BAHS attendees so I can contact them. If you receive this letter with a yellow forwarding address on the front, it means that your new address will probably need to be sent to us within the next month to insure that we keep a current address for you. Please, include phone numbers, if you don't mind.

The newsletter will begin mailing by Christmas of this year. I would like to send out the addresses before Christmas, so you can send cards to one another. To do that you will need to contact me with your updated address before the end of October.

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Did everyone have as much fun at the reunion as I did? My spouse loved it, although I have to admit, it takes a special spouse to put up with our antics! Glenda (Ray's wife) is just such a spouse. Ray certainly couldn't have hosted it without her help, and he was gentlemanly enough to admit it. Despite several set-backs he and his lovely wife, Glenda, hosted a fun-filled, cozy event. (I think the general consensus was that we would just adopt all the spouses, if they are agreeable, like we adopted each new addition to our school.)



Helen, Georgia, was a pleasant one hour drive north of Atlanta, past the birthplace of the Cabbage Patch Kids. The town is situated in the mountains on a river. It was a quaint reminder of Germany. It even rained a bit for us! We all enjoyed a day of shopping after our night of getting reacquainted. I bought some candy for my children, but I'm afraid it didn't get as far as the Atlanta airport.

In his unparalleled style, Ray Holmes had us all in stitches. Remember the awards ceremony and his James Brown dance routine?

Some sort of award should be given to Buddy Weaver's mom who saved his letter jacket for him. He got a standing ovation when he put it on. It still fit. We were all amazed that he looks exactly like he always has. His comment was, "Does that mean I've always looked this old?"

Several people brought old photos and their yearbooks. It was a lot of fun to see old faces and places. We were all especially blessed by Jeri (Polanski) Glass's pictures of her recent trip to Berlin. She managed to get pictures of all the significant places in Berlin...the housing units, Check Point Charlie, the High School, etc. It was miraculous!--she took pictures of at least 20 different locations in ONE day!

I came away with several profound realizations: 1) Cheerleading ruins your singing voice. 2) Don't try to make sense when you're overly tired...you'll say things like "Auschwitz sausage" instead of "Nuremburg sausage". (OUCH!) 3) We really did get better with age! We are a kinder, gentler group.

Some of us stopped at a Mexican food restaurant before blasting away from Georgia--just one last "Hurrah!" A storm threatened to keep some of us there indefinitely. Jim Stottle had to stay overnight! But, we all made it home safely.

Next news will include some photos and an update on activities.

Berlin Brats Association



PURPOSES AND GOALS

Berlin Brats Association was formed on October 1, 1991, in response to interest expressed by former alumni of Berlin American High School to maintain contact with one another. The Association's purposes include:

- *To locate and open dialogue with alumni and former teachers.
- *To communicate on a regular basis with alumni and former teachers.
- *To network alumni and former teachers with one another.
- *To inform alumni of pertinent facts concerning the school, their friends, their teachers, and events in Berlin.
- *To inform alumni of planned reunions.
- *To encourage alumni to plan reunions.
- *To network with other overseas groups for the purpose of shared ideas and experiences.

In order to fulfill these purposes the following goals have been established:

- 1) A newsletter will be mailed twice a year: once in September and once in February.
- 2) A fund will be established to pay for the expenses of printing, mailing, and verifying addresses to mail the newsletter. The moneys collected will be credited for a fiscal year beginning each August.
- 3) An All-Class reunion has been scheduled for 1996 in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.
- 4) A portion of the funds collected for the newsletter will be set aside as an installment on the deposit required for the reunion. The moneys collected from individuals will be assigned to their deposit. At present (10/91) the amount collected from each individual equals \$10, five of which is set aside for that individual's deposit for the planned reunion.
- 5) An account has been established in Grapevine, TX, at the Carswell AFB Credit Union under the name of Laura Thornton/Berlin Brats. Laura (Coats) Thornton will be in charge of depositing funds, and crediting individual's accordingly for the funds sent. Lillian (Motley) Matthews of Garland, TX, has been designated the beneficiary and authorized to sign for moneys.
- 6) A roster will be published yearly in November to update the addresses and encourage contact among the alumni during the holiday season. This roster will include a memorium page to those alumni who have left this world for a better.
- 7) An accounting of the funds will be published in February's newsletter in order to acquaint the alumni of the financial status of the Association.
- 8) In order to better provide the services the alumni desire, the alumni will be surveyed from time to time.
- 9) Laura Thornton has joined Overseas Brats and will maintain contact with that organization for the purpose of networking.

After completion of the All Class Reunion in 1996, all the funds will be transferred and responsibilities will be delegated to those individuals who will plan the next reunion, tentatively set to be held in California.

BERLIN



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(817) 444-1664

Dear Friends,

As promised in the newsletter, here is the latest roster of all the names I have. All the addresses are correct. I've added some that are incorrect under the heading "Last Known Address". If any of you know the whereabouts of these people, or any others, please, contact me and I will forward them this information.

Please forgive me for missing my deadline on mailing you these, however, as I began to track down information I wanted to include with this, I was given several addition names, so the list kept growing...

In addition to the roster, I've included several other items:

*Page two is the Association's goals and purposes.

*Page three and four consist of a survey being conducted by Bruce E. Jones who plans to publish a book cameoing our perspective of events overseas.

I've also included a form for you to fill out and return to update my files on you, the former BAHS attendee! Feel free to add to it if you want.

As a reminder, cost of the newsletter is \$10. For those of you who have been putting it off, please, follow through on your good intentions as soon as possible. The newsletter due out in February will include information concerning the closing of Berlin American High School and other pertinent information. If you do not mail in your dues, you will not receive the newsletter.

Berlin American High School Reunion 1991 Helen, Georgia



TOP ROW: JERI (HANSEN) CALHOUN, BOB O'NEIL, RAY HOLMES, LINN (HARRISON) FOLGER, SYLVIA (HODGES) FINCHER, JERRY OWENS

STANDING ROW: VICKIE (HEIZER) LAMB, SANDI (HOOSACK) TRADER, MARY (CAUSGROVE) ROBERTS, KAREN (HANSEN) WITT, LAURA (COATS) THORNTON, BRENDA (EZELL) SCARBROUGH, DARLENE (CARPENTER) PORTER, SHIRLEY (PARKER) WELLS, BUDDY WEAVER

SITTING ROW: NANCY LIEPMAN, JERI (POLANSKI) GLASS, CATHY (COATS) KELTON, RENATE (KOWALSKI) STEHR, DEBBIE (HOOSACK) JONES, ROSEANN (TERRY) PHILLIPS

KNEELING ROW: MARK DURANT, JIM STOTTLE, LAMAR (DAVE) WEAVER

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Ray Holmes would like to publish a book about our May 1991 reunion. If you have photo negatives you wouldn't mind passing along to him to help him do this, please mail them to him, asap. If you would like to receive a book, contact him.

Ray Holmes, 610 Oberlin Rd, Augusta
70909-3434. Phone #404/736-5790