



BERLIN BRATS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 121022

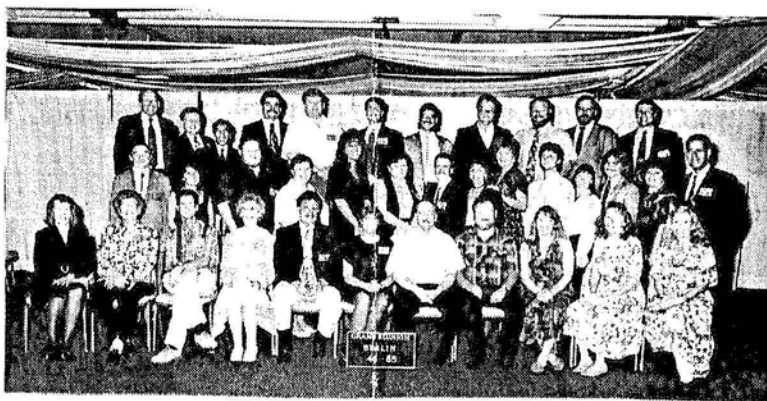
FT. WORTH, TX 76121-1022

GRAND REUNION 1993

This past August several Berlin Brats participated along with 1,800 other former overseas school alumni in The Grand Reunion. The Reunion was held at the Hyatt Regency on DFW Airport in Dallas the first week of August. Over forty schools participated.

The reunion was the brain-child of Bill Gunkel of Reunions Unlimited. Working through the Overseas Brats organization, he contacted high school groups with the idea over two years ago. At first there were only eight or so schools who wanted to participate. As the interest in the idea grew, overseas alumni began pouring in from everywhere. Bill Gunkel conscientiously oversaw every aspect of the reunion, in order that each school group would have the most satisfactory reunion possible. (cont. page 3)

By the middle of July over 1,000 people had signed on the attend, and we knew this was



First Row: Marianna L-Mounsey, Ms. Recucki, Duncan Naylor, Barbara H-Mooney, Harry Graf, Shirley Parker, Randy Lewis, Jim Wright, Debbie O-Grover, Sandy McCuskey, Mrs. Ross Calvert

Second Row: Mr. James Timmerman, Mrs. Sam (Andy) McCuskey, Lloyd Olsen, Cathy Van Galder-Poethke, Liz Perullo, Janine Fisher-Ethier, Mike Buldowski, Patty Perullo, Linda Engelage-Poole, Bob Schiavinato, Debbie Doty-Miller, Jason Sprankle, Myrna Medina-Orbock, Samuel Echeveste

Third Row: Sam McCuskey, Scott Fisher, Anthony Samson, Don Collins, Tim Olsen, Tom Schiavinato, Dan Sisneros, Mr. Poole, Ross Calvert, Horst Poethke, Greg Orbock

NEWS FROM RETURNEES

Over the past few months, several alumni have had the privilege of going back to Berlin to touring the old "home" grounds. They have called with updates, from time to time, about how the base has changed. I thought you might want an update yourself. Those I have heard from are: Mike Friedrich, Janeen Fisher-Ethier, Scott Ethier, and Greg and Myrna Orbock. Their travels date from the fall of 1992 until July of 1993.

As early as the fall of 1992, the base was being "spruced" up to be handed back to the Germans. Sundgauer edition was given back to the Germans to house the refugees from East Germany. In subsequent months, Duppel has been partially taken over by the Germans.

As for the changes on the base not related to the closing, the base is now guarded and closed, and guards are posted at the high school. The BX facility is now a mall-like structure, housing various shops.

The Harnack House, scheduled to be turned over to the Germans, was used this past year for the Class of 1993 prom. The Wansee Clubhouse is still maintained through the summer to facilitate the sun-bathers and other summer sun worshippers.

The high school now boasts out-buildings including an art/shop building, a media center, and an ROTC building. However many additions the classes made throughout the years have been taken down in anticipation of the changes.

The duty train is now a high-speed ICE train making the journey from Berlin to Frankfurt in four hours!

The change in Berlin itself with reunification has been dramatic. The U-bahn now travels through East Berlin...now just Berlin. Visitors to the Brandenburg Tor are able to walk through the gate to the "other side". Check Point Charlie was taken down and removed to the Smithsonian Museum in D.C. Memorials to those who sacrificed their lives in attempts to cross over to the West, have been updated. The German government plans to re-use official buildings with modifications. So, the city we knew as children, will still be there with some modifications.

The base will officially close by January 1995. The school will be officially handed over to the Germans on June 30, 1994. It was announced that consideration will be given to families whose children are attending school, to allow them as much time as possible to complete their school year.

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going to turn into a really fun event. We couldn't have guessed though that AP would carry the story on the Grand Reunion just a few days before it was scheduled. The story ran in over 250 newspapers and USA Today which is published for markets overseas. As a result, over 300 more people came at the last minute. The excitement surrounding this event cannot be expressed in words. Hopefully, the photos will convey some of the excitement we Berliners felt as we reminisced about our time there.

Friday evening our group came together for the first time with a buffet meeting in which we introduced ourselves to one another. Over 30 people were there to hear from several of our former teachers, the alumni from the early years, and the reunion planners. What began with some trepidation, became a cherished moment for all. We discovered a comradarie that was surprising. Especially heart-warming was the opportunity to hear from Ms. Mary Recucki, and our three early alumni from 1946 who took advantage of the Grand Reunion to renew their friendship of almost 50 years!

After our buffet meeting, we adjourned to the hospitality suite where we held a toast in honor of our time in Berlin with (what else) Berliner Weisse! (Thanks to the Orbocks, class of 1976.) We held a drawing for door prizes, and looked through the yearbooks on display.

(cont. page 5)



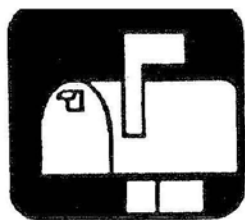
Standing: Andy McCuskey, James Timmerman, Shirley Parker, Mr. Echeveste, Laura Coats-Thornton
Seated: Sam McCuskey, Horst Poethke, Ms. Recucki, Cathy Van Galder-Poethke



Standing: Randy Lewis, Tim Olsen, Jean Crews-Derry, Barbara Hathcock-Mooney, Lloyd Olson
Seated: Marianna Lieirance-Mounsey, Mrs. Ross Calvert, Ross Calvert, Debbie Olsen-Grover



Standing: Scott Fisher, Mike Buldowski, Debbie Buldowski, Greg Orbeck, Myrna Orbeck, Dan Sisneros
Seated: Jeanine Fisher-Ethier, Debbie Doty-Miller, Warren Miller



NOTES AND POST CARDS

"I really enjoyed our telephone conversation and look forward to receiving the roster. I called _____ and _____. So wonderful to be in contact again!. Contact me anytime" M. Eigenberg, '73.

"Just a quick note to let you know I had a great time at the Grand Reunion. Please send me addresses of _____ and _____. I'd like to thank them for all they did. It was great meeting you at last. Let me know if I can be any help with Berlin Brats--I'd love to help."--D. Olsen-Grover, '73

"Thanks for all the information you sent. _____ is the guy I need to get in touch with. I remember him very well. He and my brother played basketball for the Bears J.V. team. I'm enclosing my brother's address so you can send some information to him also. He is unaware of my contact with Berlin Brats, so I'm sure he will be surprised to receive it."--J. Branson, '64.

"I am unable to attend the 1993 reunion, but I am very interested in maintaining contact with my fellow classmates. I am enclosing \$25.00 for the Grand Roster/

Alumni Giving and Benefits '93 Program. Thank you for taking on the difficult responsibility of locating and bringing together the alumni."--K. Payne-Pence

"Unfortunately, I cannot attend the '93 reunion do to the fact I will be 8 months pregnant by August. I already have a 2 year old red-headed son, so we hope this will be his sister. Enclosed is my check for the newsletters and alumni directory. I have addresses of some of my classmates, if the class contact people need to fill in some blanks. Thanks and keep up the good work!"--C. Gilligan-Eckles, '78

"Looking forward to running up my phone bill with the class directory! I had thought I had lost contact with old friends forever."-- J. Wright, '72

"Thank you for the recent letter updating me on _____. I was glad to hear from you again. _____ and I talked. Whenever I visit relatives in his area, I will try to see him." --J. Freeman, '71

Saturday, the Orbocks and the Poethkes played host to several of the group and took them on a tour of Dallas. The crew viewed the JFK memorial and the West End of Dallas, then went to the Rattskeller at the Anatole Hotel which features a portion of the Berlin Wall.



Back: Tim Olsen, Shirley Parker, Myrna Orbock, Lloyd Olsen, Horst Poethke, Coach Echeveste
Front: Janine Fisher-Ethier, Scott Fisher, Debbie Olsen-Grover, Randy Lewis

For those Berlin Brats whose plane connections put them into Dallas too late to do the tour, the hospitality suite afforded them the opportunity to get to know one another and to look over the yearbooks and a display of Berlin pictures.

The highlight of the reunion was the Saturday evening dance. Classmates from the classes of 1948 (attended TAR in 1946) through the class of 1985 were pictured in the Berlin Grand photo taken that night. (see photo, page 1)

The evening began with a recognition of each school group. Berlin was well represented by: James Timmerman, recognized for his years of service in the DoDDs system's schools; Barbara Hathcock-Mooney, recognized as the

oldest alumni; and Harry Graff, recognized as having traveled the farthest to get there.

Not recognized, but notable, were: Ms. Mary Recucki, retired after more than 20 years with BAHS; Ross Calvert, (class of '65) coach/teacher for SHAPE high school Belgium; Mr. Echeveste coach/teacher in the late sixties; Cathy Van Galder-Poethke, faculty 1979-85; Marianna Lieurance-Mounsey, class of 1950 (attended 1946); and Jean Crews-Derry, class of 1948 (attended 1946).

Saturday evening/Sunday morning the hospitality suite was open all night. The suite stayed full for the most part with alumni who weren't able to make the dance, but who gathered to get reacquainted. True to our history, we all had a party!



Standing: Sam McCuskey, Anthony Samson, Scott Fisher, John Sprinkle, Jason Sprinkle
Seated: Daniel Sisneros, Andy McCuskey, Sandy McCuskey

The Sunday brunch came too soon for most of us. It seemed we had only begun to get to know one another, and then had to say good-bye. (Deja Vu!) The Grand Reunion 1993 will be remembered as a first of many reunions of its kind.

Brief History of Thomas A. Roberts/ Berlin American High School

The school was begun in 1946 in a refurbished German girls school. There were fewer than 50 students enrolled in the entire high school. None graduated that year. Student activities consisted mainly of skating on the tennis courts in winter and playing tennis in the summer. The school football team was a 6-man squad. Jean Crews-Derry ('48) laughingly commented that she was made a cheerleader because she had a pair of oxfords. Sometime between 1946 and the mid-1950's, the school met in the old hospital building.

Thomas A. Roberts was built in the mid-50's and initially housed first grade through twelfth. The first principal decided the school colors should be maroon and white in honor of his college Alma Mater, Harvard. The AYA building was constructed across the street from the high school, next to the bowling alley, and students attended activities there in addition to school activities. The last graduating class from TAR was the class of 1965. At that time TAR became the elementary school and Berlin American High School housed the seventh through twelfth grades.

Berlin American High School rose from the Grunewald just beyond the graveyard and a few blocks from the AYA. The first class to graduate from the new Berlin

American High School was the class of 1966. The three story-building was officially dedicated in 1968. That year a school flag was commissioned and one of the students, Diane Green designed the flag.

Additions to the school were made throughout the subsequent years. A new cafeteria was added, the most recent addition was a media center. Since the announcement on July 28th that the military was leaving Berlin, the school enrollment has dwindled. However, priority is being given to families of high school dependents to allow them to stay to finish the remainder of their senior year in Berlin. The last class to graduate from Berlin will be the class of 1994. The buildings will be turned over to the German government on June 30, 1994.

TAR/BAHS 1946-1994

SPECIAL THANKS

*From Jean Crews-Derry
Attended 1946
Graduated 1948*

Dear Laura,

I want to thank everyone who came to visit me in the hospital, and I want to thank the group for the lovely flowers I received while I was there...and for all the telephone calls. I would also like to thank all those at the reunion dinner who got me to the hospital.

What steps can we take to have a reunion in Berlin in May or June next year?

Sincerely,

Jean

OVERSEAS BRATS BUMPER STICKER

Proudly display your "overseas brat" pride with the Overseas Brats Bumper Sticker.

Cost: \$3.00 or Free for joining Overseas Brats. If you join Overseas Brats you will also receive 4 issues per year of the Overseas Brats Magazine which promotes our groups through advertisements and articles of interest. Contact: Joe Condrill, P.O. Box 29805, San Antonio, TX 78229-0805



1961 - 1964 Class Reunion

Will be held in the D.C. area this next summer. Contact Phil Lear, Class of 1963, 801/237-1967 (wk) or 801/355-7020 (hm). *(Note: If you have names or addresses on any alumni of those years, give them to Phil so he can contact them about the reunion.)*

OVERSEAS BRATS CALLING CARD

Now you can show off your heritage with the Overseas Brats Calling Card. Through special arrangements with National TeleService, one of the country's leading calling card providers, you can enjoy the cost effective convenience of calling from anywhere in the US, toll-free.

The card has no monthly service fees, no minimum billing, and no surcharges for the first minute of your call. You will be billed at a flat-rate of \$.27/min. daytime (CST) and \$.23/min. all other time periods. Additionally the card offers three free speed dialing numbers, project codes, and international calling without additional fees. (International calls are charged at a different rate.)

The best part: 1% of everything you pay in will be refunded to the Berlin Brats reunion fund!

For an application, fill out and return this form below to DC Enterprises, P.O. Box 126136, Ft. Worth, TX 76126

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____



Newsletter
Oct. 15, 1993

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