



Berlin

Whats' Been Happening since the January Newsletter?

Well....we've had two region-als! One in Phoenix, AZ on March 16th (I'll let Di give you the details on that) and one in Breckenridge, CO. over Easter weekend. Both have created a lot of excitement and now everyone is talking about attending the OSB Gathering in Kentucky in October.

Berlin Brats
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Desert Flat Brats Gather in Phoenix! ...by Diana

(Green) Kempton, class of '72

A gathering of former Berlin American High School alumni was hosted March 16th at the home of Jim Wright (class of '72). This was the first get-together in 25 years for a number of those in attendance. I had no idea there were so many of us now living in the southwest! The group included Dan Sinnard ('71) and his wife Deb, now living in Sierra Vista, AZ; Kathy West ('70), Lana (Nancy West) Hallop ('71), and Cherie (Biemesser) Eglund ('70) who live in the greater Phoenix area; Mr. Echeveste, who taught mechanical drawing and shop at BAHS in the late 1960's and his wife Roberta from Tempe, AZ; Jeri (Polansky) Glass ('72) from Breckenridge, CO; and myself, Diana (Green) Kempton ('72) with husband Reed, who came to protect me from bodily harm after I told him I'd been invited to a brat fry.....

The catalyst for this event was Jeri Glass, who was here that week to work with Dr. Tom Drysdale on the archives for the American

Overseas Schools Historical Society. If you haven't joined this group yet, be sure to contact Jeri for info on its purpose and goals. There are a number of ways you can make an important contribution to preserving our history. Just remember, preservation is pursued at the Hysterical Society, pickling is done at the reunions. (see related article on the Breckenridge Regional Gathering of Cubs).

Of course, where there are Berlin people, there is food. The bratwurst/potato salad and beer were not in short supply! Jim's currywurst and homemade salsa kept everyone close to the kitchen, and we don't know what we would've done without Mrs. Echeveste's low-cal cake to cancel out the wurst of the calories.

The great thing about this bunch was that once we caught up on news about fellow Berliners we've been in touch with, there was so much to talk about! Cherie works for ADOT, the Arizona Dept. of Transportation, and knows a lot of the same people my husband knows from his work on the Governor's Arizona Bicycle Task Force. Deb Sinnard and I debated various esoteric design issues (OK, so we talked about flagstone and grout): Deb and Reed

found common ground in comparing their road rash scars from bicycling mishaps, and we discovered they knew the couple who sold us our tandem and whose address we had been seeking for years. We even took yet another opportunity to harass Sam McCuskey by phone (he's in CA.) to try to get him up to Breckenridge for Easter weekend, but as much as he was hoping to, they are preparing for a European trip. OK, so a trip back to Berlin should be the only excuse for not getting together with your fellow Cubs.

Since the brunch I've been up to Breckenridge for a Berlin ski-gathering. You can't imagine what fun it is to get together at these events. I have so much more in common with my classmates now than 25 years ago, plus we've had so many incredible experiences to share that it's hard to quit talking long enough to get some sleep. We've been through move after move, survived hurricanes, earthquakes, divorces, career changes....but always, we'll be Berliners. And always, there'll be currywurst!!!

PHOENIX REGIONAL
 Back Row: Diana (Green)
 Kempton, Jim Wright, Mr.
 Echeveste, Dan Sinnard
 and Jeri (Polansky) Glass
 Front Row: Lana (Nancy
 West) Hallop, Cherie
 (Birnesser) Eglund and
 Kathy West.

...oh, and a plate of
CURRYWURST!!!!



Brat Band hits Breck.....by Jeri

*"Lightin' Willie & the Poor
 Boys"kind of sounds like
 a CCR (Creedence
 Clearwater Revival)
 song...but in this case its the
 name of Bill Hermes' band
 ('68). Bill, Barry, Jake &
 Keeno rolled into Summit
 County (Breckenridge &
 Keystone) for a five-night
 engagement the weekend
 before the ski gathering.
 Fortunately, one brat had
 already arrived - Renate
 (Kowalski) Stehr ('72). So
 off we went to catch the
 tunes of one of our own.
 Neither of us ever having
 been a "GROUPIE" before...
 leamed fast. Within minutes
 we were caught up in the
 band's infectious sound and
 let the surrounding crowd
 know..."he's one of us!"
 Three girls in the front row
 wondered what we had on
 them as we moved front and
 center.*

The group's music is hard to
 categorize...part blues, part
 rockabilly - a real hybrid
 band. They have toured
 Europe 3X and will be
 returning soon. Those of us
 living stateside can catch
 them in Reno, Las Vegas
 and several cities in
 California. Look for their
 CD..."Muddy Waters" and
 another soon to be
 released, sometime this
 summer, called "Buy
 American". For dates of
 upcoming engagements
 contact Bill at: (818)795-
 8431. (and "NO" Renate
 and I do not do parties!)



BELOW:
 Lightin' Willie & the
 Poorboys...
 Front row: Jeri (Polansky)
 Glass, Renate (Kowalski)
 Stehr.
 Back row: Keeno, Bill
 Hermes, Barry and Jake.

On Guitar: Bill Hermes ('68)

(Photos by Renate)



Visit to the Archives...by

Jeri (Polansky) Glass, ('72)

As part of the student board assigned to work with the Board of Directors of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) I attended a working weekend at the temporary home of the archives in Goodyear, Arizona, March 13th -16th. What an interesting weekend! Dr. Drysdale has turned four rooms of his brand new home over to the society. In his two-car garage (which is climate controlled) are all the boxes of memorabilia which teachers, administrators and students have been sending in to the archives to be documented and catalogued. On the first day, Dr. Drysdale presented me with several huge boxes entitled "Berlin High School" to open and catalogue. As I opened the first box I started to oooh & ah, then cry, then laugh. Students (brats like us) and teachers are sending in many wonderful mementos. This particular box had a cheerleading megaphone, a Berlin Bears game button, a school sweater, a BAHS bookcover (from a schoolbook...remember the days when...), a banner and lots of "Bear Facts" - the school newspaper for the early and mid-80's. As I reminiscenced and stroked each item, my fellow board members did ALL the cataloguing. The next box contained the collection of Ms. Mary Muehring, a teacher assigned to Berlin between

1956-1958. Ms. Muehring, at such a young age must have realized the importance of where she was and its place in history as she photographed everything, in black & white, 8X10's, in black and entered them in protective sheets in a 3-ring binder. I was so moved by the historical pictorial that I asked Dr. Drysdale if we could copy her entire collection into a video format. He quickly gave permission. (Note: When an item is donated, it legally becomes the property of the Historical Society). Since, however, I was requesting to copy an entire collection, he wanted Mary's okay. Tom immediately called Mary and she was THRILLED the Berlin Brats would be interested in her photos. She wholeheartedly gave her permission and asked to be added to our mailing list! I hope to make an appearance at the Ninth Annual DoDDs reunion this summer in Texas and thank Mary personally. I will keep you posted on how this project develops. Ideally, I would like to have the video available for viewing at all "regionals" and "reunions" and if there is enough interest we may make copies available for re-sale. In the next newsletter we hope to have the complete inventory of memorabilia that Bill Planz ('71) was able to collect from BAHS before they closed their doors. We will list the inventory and then ask you, "our members", what you would like donated to the archives and what you would like available to us at reunions.

As our weekend came to a close and our work finished, I couldn't help but be overwhelmed with gratitude for Dr. Drysdale, who had "the vision" and saw "the need" to document and preserve our heritage. "The Vision" is still on course for a brat historical park to include a visitor's center, archive and museum. We hope to break ground in the year 2000! Your support is needed. Please mail your tax exempt donations to:

AOSHS, Inc.
P.O. Box 777
Litchfield Park, AZ
85340



Dr. Tom Drysdale, President
AOSHS



For further information contact Dr. Drysdale at the above address, email him or call at the following: overseasschools@juno.com (602)935-3939.

Boxes of Memorabilia....



....opening box of BAHS
memorabilia!

---- quick notes ----

••Ron Rainville's prostrate surgery was very successful on March 13th. He's at home recuperating. We wish Ron a complete and speedy recovery. Give Ron a call at (303) 975-9985.

••Roster changes and updates will be listed in the July newsletter.

•• Our sincere apologies to Paola (Meimaris) Blank ('79). In the January newsletter Paola's name was not listed in the group photo of the Dallas reunion attendees. Paola was standing between Bill Planz and Sandy McCuskey.

••Thinking about hosting a regional get-together? Not only is it easy - it is tons of fun! Your Berlin Brats newsletter would be happy to announce your gathering nationwide. For information on how to host a regional gathering and for before and after newsletter coverage, contact - Jeri at (970) 453-9273 or email at: 104673.705@compuserve.com

CONTRIBUTORS

The following people made contributions to our association this quarter and we would like to recognize them, they are:

James Bender, '52
Sam McCuskey, '71
Ron Rainville, '58

**Breckenridge
Ski-Gathering....**

by Renee (Shipley)
Knowles, class of '71

They came from Florida, California and various points between the two coasts. The ski weekend in Breckenridge, Colorado was a blast! Our hostess, Jeri (Polansky) Glass, opened her heart and her home to a weekend gathering full of reminiscing, winter activities, gorgeous mountain scenery and snow! Seeing this event as a prime opportunity to extend a winter vacation, some alumni began arriving early to the now legendary "Breckenridge Weekend". FRIDAY- The bulk of the winter adventurers arrived Friday evening and continued to materialize from the blinding curtain of falling snow until late that night. They came singly and in groups. Some by air while others braved the hazards of the snow covered roads. (The important point being that everyone arrived safely). The enthusiastic greetings showering the new arrivals was matched only by the silver dollar size snowflakes falling all around. Hats, coats and mittens were replaced by vintage 60's and 70's rock and roll, homemade pizza and frozen margaritas! LET THE FUN BEGIN!

It was an evening spent viewing yearbooks and photos. Getting to know those you didn't and reacquainting with those you did. Within minutes there were no strangers among us.

Silence finally came to the mountain in the wee hours of the morn when the last light was finally switched off. SATURDAY- Morning came all too quickly. We woke to the sound of Jeri in her four wheel drive truck plowing the snow from her driveway. (editor's note: Chuck wasn't home at the time)

We watched in awe as she skillfully maneuvered the notorious snake like thirty percent grade! Colorado mountain people learn driving skills rarely equalled elsewhere. A quick bite of breakfast was all our excitement allowed us. Some raced off to the slopes while others forged their way to Main Street for a shop-a-holic's paradise with an uncountable number of quaint and unique gift shops. The ski slopes of Breckenridge are incredible and offer 136+ trails and 2000 acres of downhill skiing on four different peaks. Cross-country trails are also in abundance. The rendezvous was set for 2:00pm at Jeri's house where everyone of foolhardiness and adventurous spirit would be picked up by bus and transported to a place called Tiger Run, a snowmobiling area guaranteed to addict you to winter sports. To ensure your comfort you are outfitted in a snowsuit, boots, gloves and helmet. After some quick instructions -heres the gas, heres the brake - you are cruising down the trail at 40 mph (...until you get to the open fields..then its your guess) Its hard to beat this stimulating way of experiencing and

exploring the Colorado winter wonderland. Some claimed it was the most fun they had ever had in the snow!

Dinner was at 7:00pm. We met at the Salt Creek Restaurant. There we shared laughter, our experiences of the day, delight at being in the "high country" and a delicious, energizing meal. Next stop was a cowboy saloon with a dance floor begging for a country two-step and a bottle of tequilla with Berlin Brats written all over it! YEA-WHOOOOO! It was nearly "last call" by the time our full and active day finally caught up with us. As we left the saloon the slap of cold, crisp air serves as a reminder why mountain folk are a hardy bunch. The snow had stopped, the sky was clear and at 9600 feet above sea level the stars seem close enough to touch. In the southeastern sky Comet Hale-Bopp was bright and easy to see. SUNDAY- We were awakened early by the loud and heavy snoring of Reggie (Jeri's english bulldog). How did he manage to get into the women's sleeping quarters? It was a clear, bright, beautiful day. Some geared up and headed for the slopes while others made their way to the new ice skating rink. And as if the newly acquired bumps, bruises and aching muscles were not enough to remind us of our age, snowsledding down a nearby hill was scheduled as a afternoon activity! This being the last day, some wanted to walk

the historic streets of Breckenridge to admire and photograph the 1860's Victorian buildings. So much to do and see...so little time. After a hardy lunch the farewells began. No one wanted to leave, a lucky few were able to stay one more night as they did not need to return home until Monday. One by one with deep regret we said our goodbyes and expressed our joy at having taken part in such a fun and exciting weekend. Now we go home with fresh, invigorating stories of our Colorado excursion, new and renewed friendships and wonderful memories that will surely stay with us for the rest of our lives. Thank you Jeri for hosting an extraordinary weekend. And thank you to all who came to Breckenridge. You are the reason we had so much fun. Same time next year?????

See the many photos taken of the group on page 5 they are:

Group Picture.....

Eric Heiden...ops I mean Jim Wright doing Olympic defining speeds around the rink....

Snowmobiling....

Partying...margarita style!

Silver dollar size snowflakes.

Sir Reginald (Reggie) had one too many.....



Breckenridge Ski Gathering
 Back row: Cal Bloebaum, Jeri (Polanski)Glass, Diana(Green) Kempton, Pat(Martel)Little, Renee(Shiple)Knowles.
 Front row: Jim Wright, Renate (Kowalski)Stehr, Steve Brown, Barbara(Hermes)Hannegan and Sir Reginald "Reggie".
 Photos by Renee'



CLASS NOTES

Class of '58

Ron Rainville did a career in the Army after leaving Berlin. He retired as a Lt. Colonel, is an active JROTC instructor, basketball coach, and President of his homeowner association - one of the largest in the country - in Denver, Colorado. Ron is also a newlywed. Congratulations... and welcome to the brat family - Lynda!

Class of '65

Classmate Don Conner did a brief five years in the Air Force after college. He settled into the engineering profession and has resided in Birmingham, Alabama since 1981. He works for Raytheon Engineers & Constructors as a project manager. Don is married to a fellow brat (not from Berlin)...and since neither of them ever intended to grow up, have no children.

Class of '69

Classmate Ric Oates did a career in the Air Force after leaving Berlin. He now owns and runs his own car detailing business in Melbourne, Florida and is presently trying to survive the high school years with his son Brandon. (payback time.....)

Tom Robinson, after dropping out of sight for awhile, has resurfaced in the town where he actually graduated

from high school. Farmington, Missouri. Tom is a welding engineer. Old friends can reach him at: 710 E. Columbia St., Farmington, MO 63640 or call (573)760-0698

Class of '71

I have several announcements to make. The first being of a serious nature. Jim and Debbie Stottle's son, Kevin, age 24, was in a automobile accident March 15th. Injuries include a bruised lung, broken leg, broken jaw and severe head injuries. I recently spoke with Debbie and she told me that Kevin has finally come out of his coma and is in stable condition. Rehab is expected to begin soon. Those of you wishing to send your cards and regards may do so by mailing to: 803 Old Forge Rd., New Cumberland, PA 17070 or email Jim at: jstottle@earthlink.net Our thoughts are with you Jim, Debbie and Kevin.

Fellow classmate Nancy West has legally changed her name. She now goes by the name of Lana Hallop. Wanna know why? Its a touching story. Drop her a note. I'm sure she would love to hear from her old friends. Her address is: 3427 E. Janice Way, Phoenix, AZ 85032. Sam McCuskey has recently returned from a three week vacation in Europe (sure knows how to make a person green with envy doesn't he?) Soon as he gets his bags unpacked maybe he'll write and tell us all about it. Fellow '71'er Barbara

(Hermes) Hannegan has been traveling. Barbara works for Universal Pictures in the International Publicity/Marketing department. She has recently returned from Berlin where she was on assignment for Universal covering the Berlin Film Festival. Be sure to read the guest article about her trip in this newsletter. Barbara also attended the Breckenridge Ski Weekend in Colorado a few weeks ago. This is where I met Barbara and got to know a little about her between her ski runs down Peak 8. What a warm and friendly person! She is currently single and has a lovely and talented 20 year old daughter named Carrie. Barbara enjoys photography, gardening and looking at young men. (makes sense to me!) She lives in California and if you would like to renew your old friendship with her you can contact her at: BRHANN@unstudios.com or write to: 8750 Wyngate Street, Sunland, CA 91040. It has been nearly two months since I mailed class contact letters and bio info sheets. Not all of you have returned them to me. Won't you please take a few minutes to complete and mail yours today! If you did not receive one or need another one let me know and I will be happy to send one. Your participation is appreciated. Thats all the news I have for now. If you have news about yourself or a fellow classmate that you would like to share please forward to me at: Renee (Shipley) Knowles, 142 Crystal Park

Rd., Manitou Springs, CO. 80829.

Class of '72

Classmate Susan (Harrison) Mahon actually graduated high school in Fairfax, Va. She moved to Florida, met her husband Charlie and has two teenagers. Susan works for Soft-Art, Inc., a translation software development company in Naples, Florida. In her position she gets to meet people from all different countries and gets to type in 15 different languages. When people from Germany come in....boy does she get excited! Classmate Ken Replogle left Berlin for Denver, CO. A graduate of the Denver Institute of Technology he went to work for Motorola. In '76 he returned to Berlin with Motorola (what luck!) After his Berlin stint he returned to Colorado once again. '96 finds him in Washington state. He has started a communications consulting firm with his partner called Pacific Consulting Services and just purchased a sailboat. After being land locked in Colorado...do we need to worry about you Ken on the open waters???

Class of '73

Classmate Debbie (Wheeler) Hogan and her husband Roy own ERA Arlington Park Realtors in Arlington, TX. Presently she is serving as Vice-president of the Arlington Board of Realtors and will move up to President-elect next year. Deb is involved with her community serving as the director for the Christmas

Samaritans. She has one daughter who is "Sweet Sixteen" and thinks she is smarter than Mom. (think many parents can attest to this) Visit Deb on her website at: www.arlingtonrealtor.com

Class of '74

Stefan Aubrey left Berlin and went onto Bremerhaven and Frankfurt - where he actually graduated from high school. He then attended the University of Maryland-Munich Campus. Active Army - LTC Aubrey will soon be appointed a diplomat/attache to our U.S. Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden. CONGRATULATIONS STEFAN!!!! (We want to hear all about it once you get settled in)

Class of '79

John Tuite kept up the nomadic lifestyle for several years after leaving Berlin - until they finally pried his yellow ID card out of his hand. He enlisted in the Coast Guard some ten years ago and is an ET2 (Electronics Technician) stationed on the USCGC Steadfast homeported out of Astoria, Oregon.

Class of '83

Classmate Rose (Hanson) Neel went on to the Univ. of Maine, Farmington. Moved to Heidelberg and worked with military youth. Rose and her husband David have one child, a daughter, Madeline born in '94 and presently live in Savannah, GA. Friends may contact her at: Rose1966@aol.com

TEACHER

Mr. Samuel Echeveste currently resides in Tempe, Arizona with his lovely wife Roberta (who is from Austria). They have two daughters - both in college. Mr. Ech, as we like to call him, currently works with wayward teens at the Arizona Boy's Ranch in Queen Creek, AZ. (did we have any of those - wayward teens I mean - in Berlin?) We had a ball with both Mr. Ech and "Bert" - as Roberta likes to be called, at the Phoenix regional. We hope they show at ALL our events

new class contacts

- '77 Paul Markey
606 Bond Ave.
Reistertown, Md 21136
(410) 833-7086
w-(410)358-1142
pmarkey@home.com
- '78 David Jaspar
1803 Riverside Drive,
#6m
New York, NY 10034
(212)567-1092
w-(212)551-4325
djaspar@worldnet.att.net
- '79 John Tuite
920 Klaskanine #2
Astoria, OR 97103
(503)338-6100
tuite@seasurf.com
- '83 Renae (Berge) Gerhardstein
1339 Semillon Way
Gonzales, CA 93926
(408) 675-9373
RGERHARD65@aol.com

OVERSEAS BRATS GATHERING

Excited after the two recent regionals, many Berlin Brats will be attending the OSB Gathering this October in Kentucky. The gathering will be in Covington, Kentucky the weekend of October 23rd-26th. Covington, Kentucky is just across the river from Cincinnati, Ohio. OSB - in case you haven't heard of them yet - is an organization designed to serve the needs of ALL BRATS, ALL YEARS, ALL SCHOOLS. They hold a "gathering" every year in October - but every year somewhere new and exciting. Covington, I am told, resembles parts of Germany. They even have a "Main Strasse".....*now do they have bratwurst and curry wurst....that's the real test?!* Part of the weekend will include a Riverboat Cruise dinner/dance. (Sounds like old times on the Wannsee to me!) If you would like more information on the weekend contact us - the Berlin Brats or Joe Condrill, President of OSB at:

OSB
P.O. Box 29805
San Antonio, TX 78229
(210) 349-1394
OSBPRES@aol.com



did you know???

**That Don Conner, class of '65 has committed himself to tracking down and suppling "Berliner" style bratwurst and currywurst for the '99 Reunion!!!! Way to go Don!! (its in print now-no going back on us) OPERATION CURRYWURST....I believe you called it.

**Your participation in this association is what it is all about. Don't be a spectator, be a player! Berlin Brats wants your involvement!

**That some guy from the class of '72 SNORES big time and kept his fellow alumni awake all night at the Breckenridge Ski Weekend.

**That Richard Black, class of '72 changed his name to Richard Berlin and is a radio disc jockey out in California. Hey Richard....we want a tune!!! How about PURPLE HAZE from ol' Jimi Hendrix!!

**That there are some famous "Brat" musical talent out there....the group "America" - all attended London Central High School, graduates of the class of '69. John Denver - attended Johnson High School in Japan in the early 60's. Kris Kristopherson's father was a major-general in the Air Force. Kris himself was commissioned in the Army ...before heading to Nashville.

WELL.....>>>>DID YOU?

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\$

FINANCIAL REPORT

1/1/97 - 3/31/97

\$

Balance beginning of the year: -0-
Dues Received: \$1,240.00
Contributions: 60.00

Expenses:
Postage: 131.43
Reproduction: 98.04
Supplies: 85.87

Total Exp: 315.34

NET: \$984.66

**Please note...Non-Cash contributions of stamps were also given for a value of \$96.00. Some reproduction costs were also donated.
\$

****COMMENTS**** received from members:

"Thanks for keeping us all up to date!"
Deb (Bromberg) Ely

"Many thanks for the complimentary newsletter! I was happy to find a few classmates right off the bat in the photos."
Paul Markey

"I got the latest edition of the Brats newsletter and you really did an excellent job. I was very interested in the recovery of some of the trophies and yearbooks. Kudos to those involved."
Robert Gardner

"...did a great job on the newsletter. I really enjoyed

it. Thank you for all the effort you put into it."
Sam McCuskey

"I can imagine how much work it involves and please know that I really appreciate it."
Katrin (Lindroth) Planz

"You packed in alot of information. Good Luck and keep up the interest!"
John Freeman

"...I see a labor of love here, a lot of enthusiam, and energy, and a very positive statement about your terrific Berlin Brats Assn.!"
*Joe Condrill
President
Overseas Brats*

"I have to congratulate you on a job well done."
Renate (Kowalski) Stehr

"Have enjoyed getting the newsletter - you're doing a terrific job!"
*Nancy (Leipmann)
Van Duzer*

"Thanks for the effort you are putting into the alumni group."
Don Conner

"The newsletter looked great!"
Jim Stottle

"It was really nice and enjoyable to read the new newsletter. I would very much like to continue to receive them."
Bev (Owens) Arnold

"Thanks for keeping up with the Berlin Brats."
Susan (Harrison) Mahon

THIRTY YEARS LATER...

by Barbara (Hermes)
Hannegan, class of '71

Tuesday, February 21, 1967... I'm staring out the window at the woods behind BAHS and wondering if it's going to snow. It's vocabulary day in Ms. Kilpatrick's class - our 8th grade English teacher extraordinare.

"*Cantankerous*," ...she says, "whenever you hear this word you'll always think of me....as in 'Ms. Kilpatrick is a *cantankerous* old school-marm.'

But I had more important things on my mind: "I can't wait to go to the AYA dance with him on Saturday. What should I wear? I hope I can get my hair to do what I want it to. I wonder if they have the new *Revolver* album in the PX and do I have \$2.59 left from my allowance to buy it". I am taking it all in and wishing I could make time stand still....that June would never come and we would never have to leave.

Friday, February 21, 1997... I'm staring out the window of my room at the Hotel Palace at the Europa Center. It's unseasonably warm out. I'm here at the Berlin Film Festival with Universal Pictures. We're having a special screening tonight across the street at the Zoo Palast of the newly-restored film *VERTIGO*. What should I wear? I still can't get my hair to do what I want it to.



Berlin American High School



Front Staircase of BAHS



School Lockers

When I arrived at the hotel, Mr. Cornelius Robertson helped me with my bags. He explained to me that he's from Mississippi...and that he was stationed here in 1967 and never left. Amazing.

Yesterday I took a journey back in time. We drove *through* the Brandenburg Gate to eat at Rheinarts-a little restaurant in the former East Berlin. I was in awe. We weren't allowed to visit East Berlin when I lived here. I saw a small portion of THE WALL that they've left as a reminder...like the bombed-out Kaiser Wilhelm Church that still stands as a memorial to World War II. They said they can't even remember exactly where The Wall stood in some places. It just shows you that anything is possible. There are huge cranes everywhere you look in East Berlin as they work feverishly to restore the city to its former splendor. The capitol is moving back to Berlin in 1999.

I had some Currywurst! How could something so simple taste so good? I wish I could take some home in my suitcase. I understand that Bier's Kudamm 195 is now the exclusive Currywurst address in Berlin - they sell champagne - Dom Perignon with their Currywurst. We left the city via the Kudamm and made our way towards the American sector in Dahlem. The PX and commissary on Clay Allee are gone. The Outpost Movie Theatre stands empty.



Mural over front staircase at BAHS

I remember at the end of Universal films they would always have a cross-promotional ad on the screen, "While in Southern California-Visit Universal Studios." I did.

The school looks the same, but the "Berlin American High School" sign has been taken down. I hope it was rescued for the museum. It looks like it's a German boys' school now. Do they have any idea what kind of memories fill those halls? But the woods are still there...and the trees are much taller. And instead of '64 VWs there are late-model economy cars in the parking lot.

I never dreamed I'd be back here exactly 30 years later...filled with a flood of memories...wishing I could go to another AYA dance, sun myself at the Wannsee, ride the U-Bahn or go to a \$.30

- movie at the Outpost.
- But we are lucky to have had the experience...which didn't seem to have much to do with reality really...just a magical moment in time. Back then I didn't even really notice - let alone understand it in the 1967

Erinnerungen yearbook when it said, "In the future it will never quite be the same. For it is only possible to return to the place of youth and happiness, the intensity can never be recaptured." Now I do. And you know, to this day,

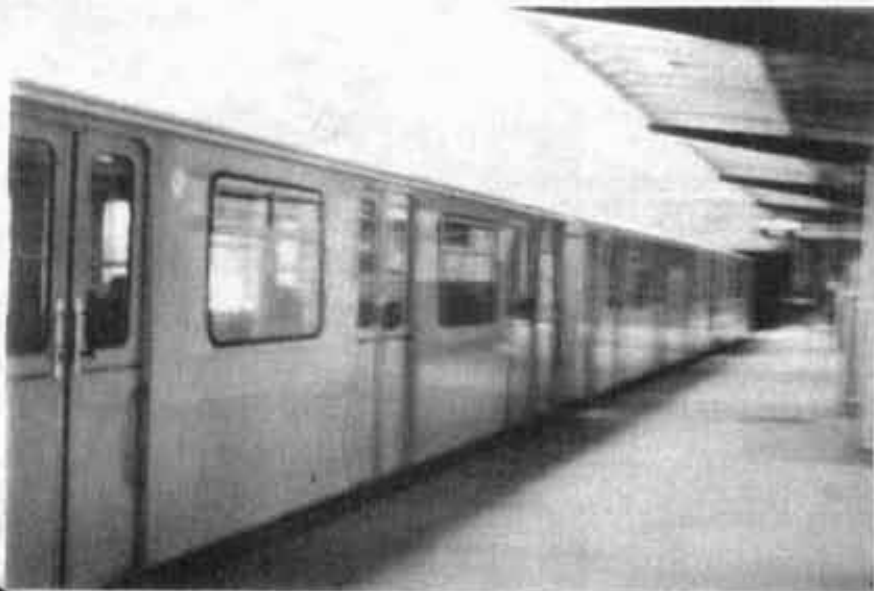
I still think of M. Kilpatrick whenever I hear the word *cantankerous*. And whenever I hear the word *Berlin* I'm transported for a moment to a time and place where special bonds were formed and amazing memories were captured forever in our hearts and minds.



Europa Center



Zoo Palast



U-Bahn



THE WALL

CALENDAR OFEVENTS!.....

JULY....

DoDDs IX Annual Reunion (7/7 - 7/11/97) in San Antonio, Texas. Call Dr. Tom Drysdale at (602)935-3939 for more details.Next newsletter goes out

October....

Overseas Brats Gathering (10/23-26) in Covington, KY. Many Berlin Brats plan on attending this year. Call Berlin Brats or Joe Condrill, President of OSB for further details. Joe can be reached at (210)349-1394 or email him at:

OSBPRES@aol.com

April '98....

Berlin Brats "Regional" to be hosted by Pat (Martel) Little, class of '72, in Melbourne, Florida.

Summer of '98....

Austin, Texas "regional" to be hosted by Steve Brown, class of '73. Date(s) to be announced.

Year 2000.....

Break ground for the Brat Historical Park!!!!

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The newsletter staff would like to thank Diana (Green) Kempton and Barbara (Hermes) Hannegan for their guest features in this newsletter. If YOU would like to contribute an article...and haven't been asked yet...please come forward. We would love to hear from you.

Newsletter Staff:

Jeri (Polansky) Glass

Renee (Shibley) Knowles

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