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BERLIN WALL EXHIBIT OPENS IN WICHITA

By Diana Green Kempton

There are two events in the past sixteen years I regret that I've missed. The first was seeing the Berlin Wall come down in person. Having lived in West Berlin from 1965—1972, I stared in joyous disbelief at national television coverage in November 1989. Berliners smashed it with sledge hammers, framing hammers, tire irons...anything they could to destroy that worn-out relic of injustice to humanity. They swarmed the Wall and tore pieces from it with their bare hands, like molten metal from a cauldron obliterating the very crucible that had held it captive. And the Wall came down, amidst cheers from onlookers and participants alike, who jumped up and down and hugged strangers in the streets, reminiscent of the end of World War II. Watching this event provided a sense of closure, in that the sacrifices our families made during the Cold War, as the free world worked toward that wall coming down, had all been worthwhile.

The second event I wish I could have attended was the unveiling of the Berlin Wall Exhibit at the Museum of World Treasures in Wichita on August 12, 2005. Donated to AOSHS by the Berlin Brats, Berlin American High School's alumni group, the 12 ft. high, 4½ ton section of the Wall (heavier than initially estimated) made its way from Maryland to Wichita on a flatbed truck in July, arriving on August 1st. It is on loan to the Museum by AOSHS, pending construction of our own AOSHS museum.

Former AOSHS President Ann Bamberger sent me her thoughts after the opening ceremonies, which were attended by city dignitaries and a group of about 50 visitors. "I just returned from Wichita and the formal opening of the exhibit...it was a nice crowd. Dr. Kardatske, director of the Museum of World Treasures, spoke on



Opening Day: AOSHS founder Tom Drysdale, Ann Bamberger, Norma Drysdale, Margaret Palmer, Glenna Harrison, and Dr. Jon Kardatske, founder and director of the Museum of World Treasures, in front of the section of the Wall on loan to the museum.

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