



Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

October 2013

Volume 9, Issue 4



Here is a photo that my Dad took in January of 1964 on the Autobahn as we entered West Berlin.

Lewis D. Walls Jr. '74

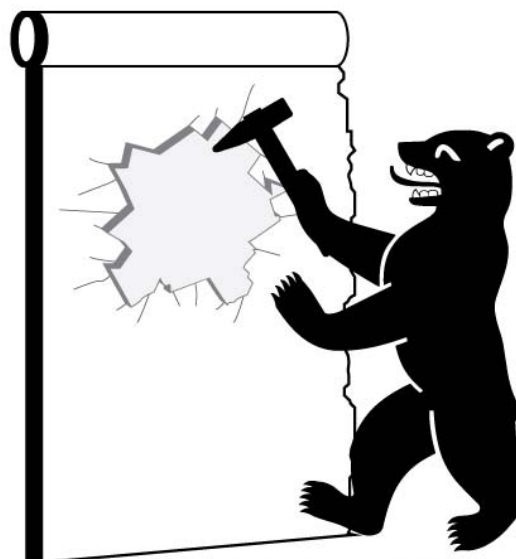
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2014 Reunion Logo Is In!

Here it is:

Berlin Brats 2014



The Fall of the Wall
25th Anniversary Celebration

Thanks to our resident Berlin Brat Graphic Artist:
Susan (Sams) O'Neill '85 and her team this year:
Linda (Packard) Erhlich '70, Katrin (Lindroth) Planz '71 and
Yoshekia (Loftin) Lowe '83.

Look for this Logo on our memorabilia
and literature for
next year's Reunion!!!!

We have posted the Official Dates of next year's Reunion
on the website and on the official Facebook page.

Nov 8th - 11th, 2014 with a 4 day optional post trip

You will note that our start date, the 8th of Nov, is a Saturday.
We usually start Reunions on a Thursday
but since we are focusing our return
on the 25th Anniversary Celebrations
(which is Sunday the 9th)
our final banquet will be on a Monday night, ie: Nov. 10th.

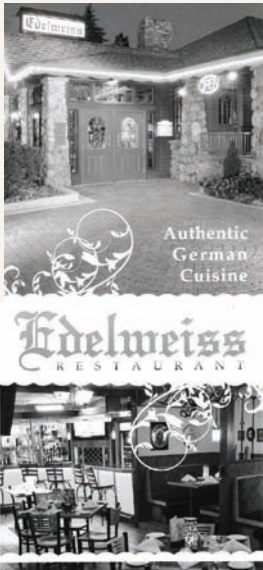
Hope to see most of you there!

all the best - always, Jeri

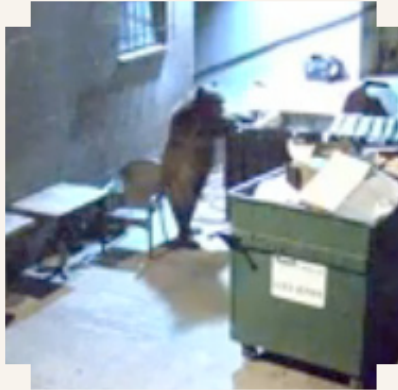
Bear Steals Colorado Restaurant Dumpster to Get a Taste of Last Night's Dinner

August 2, 2013 at 10:37AM by Zoe Bain

Last week a bear walked into a Colorado bar (not a joke), and this week a bear in Colorado Springs, Colorado took an entire dumpster that was sitting outside of a local restaurant. According to the Denver Post, the bear in question went looking for dinner scraps outside of the Edelweiss Restaurant. The animal pushed a huge dumpster 50 feet into the parking lot in order to more easily access the remains of last night's dinner. Apparently the bear most likely ate rouladen, the signature dish at Edelweiss, which is a stuffed steak topped with gravy and served alongside cabbage and potatoes. The bear must have a thing for German food because this isn't the first time it has been seen lurking around the premises.



Nomination for a Mascot?



Outside of the Edelweiss Restaurant where many Brats have gathered in the Colorado area.

The story above was sent in by
Ross Calvert '65.



Eating outside at the Edelweiss Colorado Springs, CO

Mary Ann (Cunha) Glover '76, Lonnie Glover, Richard Gadarian (Lydia & Jennifer's father), Jennifer (Gadarian) Firing '87 and husband Eric, Lydia Gadarian '76 and David Gadarian '70

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6WWyxK_OaU

AMAZING BEARS WITH BEARS PICTURES



Laura (Coats) Satterfield '71 and husband Craig at her old housing area in Berlin.

Brenda and I were on vacation in the Great Northwest in the Columbia River Gorge to see my brother and happened upon these two bears in places that we were staying. Thought it was quite appropriate for two Berliners.

Jim Branson '64



Charlotte, NC



L to R:

Bryan Duckett '84, Ellen (Morphis) Citrella '73,
Michael Brians (spouse of Deb),
Carl Fenstermacher '73, Deb (Brians) Clark '74,
Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Brenda Branson (spouse
of Jim), Jim Branson '64, Crista Brians (Deb's Mom).



Carl Fenstermacher '73, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72,
Michael Clark spouse, Deb (Brians) Clark '74.

Brat Gatherings

Phoenix, AZ



Diana '72, Jim '72, Kay '81, Jeri '72 and Diane '66



Back to front: Diana (Green) Kempton '72,
Jim Wright '72 and Mr. Ech (FAC '66-'69)



Kay Martinez '81, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Diane (Shaw) Orozo '66

'83 Mini-Class Reunion

Earlier this year, my oldest son and his fiancé decided they would be married in Spokane, WA in the summer. As we live in Houston, I was at first concerned that we would have to all travel so far out of state. However, as I thought about it, I realized that I had several brat friends in the area. So, in early spring I wrote to Marcia Spohn '83, James Miller '83 and Eric Wahlquist '83 and proposed a mini class reunion. We were all really excited about the prospect and I promised to give them more details once we were closer to the wedding date. Since the happy couple set the date to coincide with the 4th of July weekend, I knew it would be pretty easy to pull this gathering together. Over the ensuing months, James suggested I invite Sam Anderson '85, who was a mutual friend of all of us seniors back in the day even though he was an underclassman! So, I contacted Sam via Facebook and he was stoked about all of us getting together.

At first, we were a bit confounded by the logistics of how we would all meet. Marcia lives in Tacoma, Eric in Seattle, James just outside of Tacoma, and Sam lives in Spokane.

I really didn't realize that Seattle/Tacoma was on the western side of the state and Spokane was in the eastern-most part. At first the plan was for everyone to meet in Spokane, but Eric lives in a walking city, and prefers not to be encumbered by the typical burdens of owning a car. Ultimately, when I realized that we would be in Washington for three days beyond the wedding, I came up with a workable plan. Since the rehearsal dinner would be on Thursday, July 4th and the wedding on the following day, I could use Saturday and Sunday to meet up with all my friends!

Marcia's parents live in Post Falls, Idaho which is close to Spokane and was in town visiting them. So, we met Sam and Marcia for lunch at True Legends Grill in Liberty Lake, which is between Spokane and Post Falls.

Our little gathering consisted of my sister, Pleshetta Loftin '86, my husband and two youngest kiddos who are ages 20 and 17. Since Trisha Lindsey '82 and I are still collecting stories for the Brats Overseas Book Project, my daughter brought her video equipment to record Sam's and Marcia's memories of Berlin.

We had such a great time sharing stories and laughing. My 17 year old son, Christian, who thought he'd be bored to tears, later told us that he was really glad that he went with us, because we had some amazing and incredible stories.

After a delicious lunch, Marcia invited us to visit her step-dad's house. Her dad, retired Col. Gary Spohn was the Commander of the US Air Force in Berlin from 1981-1984. Marcia wanted Anastasia to get some good video footage of Col. Spohn's Berlin memorabilia.



Yoshika Lowe '83, Sam Anderson '85 and Marcia Welch '83.

I was excited for the opportunity to see the Spohns again, and to share some more of Berlin's history with my kiddos. One of my fondest memories was the night our volleyball team spent exploring Marcia's 28 bedroom house! Although the Spohns' home is much smaller now, it is still an incredible house with a breathtaking view.

Again, Christian expected to be bored to tears, but was not ready to leave when we finished 'the tour.' Christian is part of the Navy ROTC at his university, and is fascinated by all things military and especially aviation-related.

He loved looking at the beautifully displayed memorabilia the Spohns have collected over the Colonel's 31 year military career. Mrs. Spohn was as gracious a hostess as I remember from when Marcia and I were in high school. She was recovering from back surgery, so was wearing a 'tortoise shell' which was actually in a pretty pastel color so it was befitting of her elegant sense of style. After thanking our wonderful hosts, we headed back to Spokane to get packed for the drive to Seattle on Sunday.

Since we were flying out of Seattle on Monday afternoon, my dear friend Marcia, whose condo is in Tacoma, generously offered us the use of her place to spend Sunday night. Our plan was to leave Spokane early Sunday morning and meet Eric and James for lunch in Seattle. We ended up leaving a bit later than planned and hit a lot more traffic than expected, so we did not get into Seattle until well past noon. Unfortunately, this meant that by the time we walked from Eric's place in the Capital Hill district down to Pike Place Market, James had to leave for a pressing work matter.

Eric took us on a full day tour of the city which my whole family thoroughly enjoyed, we got to see the throwing of the fish at the Pike Place Market, eat some delicious street food, see the original Starbucks (which my teens were especially excited to see), visit the Space Needle, take a short ride on a monorail train, visit the botanical gardens near Eric's house and enjoy some incredible organic ice cream at a place called Maggie Moon's. I predict it will one day go nationwide like Starbucks. It is that good!

After a long day of walking and sightseeing, we returned to Eric's place, where we met his partner Silvio, thanked him for a fantastic day, hugged and said our goodbyes. It was incredible to get to connect with friends I have not seen in years. This was my first time seeing Eric and Sam since I left Berlin in 1983 and I have not seen Marcia since the 2003 reunion in Asheville, NC! Although we were bummed not to connect with James, thankfully, we had all seen him the summer before at the Berlin Brat Reunion in DC (2012).

Pleshetta Loftin '86, Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 and Eric Wahlquist '83



Pleshetta Loftin '86, Sam Anderson '85, Yoshika Lowe '83 and Marcia Welch '83.

I am so glad that I took the initiative to meet with my brat friends and that they were all able to carve out some time in their busy schedules to hang out with me and my family.

Reunions, whether small or big are just the best!

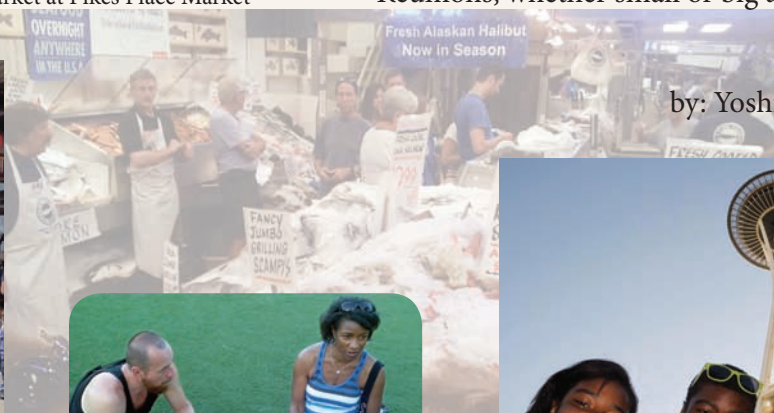
by: Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83



Fish market at Pikes Place Market



Pleshetta Loftin '86 and Eric Wahlquist '83 at Pikes Place Market



Eric Wahlquist '83 and Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83



Yoshika's Family at the Space Needle
Anastasia, Christian, Yoshika & Ivan Lowe

BRATS OVERSEAS BOOK PROJECT

Brats Overseas Book Project is still accepting stories for the upcoming book which is a compilation of stories of Berlin Brats like you! We need stories from every decade. Any stories you are willing to share would be great, whether they are about daily life or school life, we want everyone to know what it was like living behind the Iron Curtain.

Some ideas: JFK's visit (1963), the LaBelle Night Club bombing, Reagan's visits to Berlin (1982 & 1987), Carter's visit to Berlin (1978), Muhammad Ali's visit (1978), Nixon's visit to Berlin, Ed Sullivan Show tapings (1961), Berlin Airlift (1948-9), Clinton's visit (1994), TAR School Opening (1946), BAHS School Opening (1965), School Closing (1994). Send your stories of between 750 to 1000 words to: bratsoverseas@yahoo.com.

Or mail them to: Yoshika Lowe, 8502 Star Hollow Ln, Houston, TX 77095.

We look forward to sharing your memories with the world!

GET YOUR STORY INCLUDED IN THE UPCOMING BOOK!!!!

LOOK WHAT RESULTS FROM OUR "BRAT GUEST BOOK" ENTRIES:

Frau Stoldt,
June 4, 2013

Hello! It's Jeri from the Berlin Brats.

You signed our Guest Book some time ago.....and I don't know if anyone ever made contact with you?

I apologize if no one did.

I wanted to let you know that our next Reunion will be in BERLIN next year. We're coming back to participate in the city's celebration of the "25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Wall."

So it will be over Nov. 9th, 2014.
The final details will be published by this fall.

I believe you are still in Berlin, is that right?
If so, I do hope you will join us?

I'll close for now but do look forward to hearing back from you.

my best, Jeri



ANNA E.
STOLDT
German
Interpreter School Leipzig
Magdeburg/Elbe, Germany

Hello Jeri,

Thanks for your friendly note from June 2013. As I have no computer, my daughter made the contact for me. If I'll be still alive in Nov. 2014, I'll be glad to join you! I taught German in Berlin American School from Oct. 1956 until 1963. Then, I changed to a German High School where I taught English until 1983.

If you have any questions, I'll gladly answer to them, if I can. With best wishes and greetings from Berlin,
Yours, Anna and Heinz Stoldt (both teachers)

(this correspondence was then copied to Jim Branson, Class Contact '64, Jeri knew Jim was there from '60-'62 and may know her. Jim did, and did one better by posting on his early '60's FB page)

Hello Ellen,

I see that you and Jeri Glass from the Berlin Brats organization have been corresponding and trying to encourage your mother to attend the Reunion next year for all of the students from Berlin High School and the Thomas A. Roberts School. We would love to see your mother, as she taught quite a few of the students that attended during the years that we were in Berlin in the early 1960s. I was in Berlin from 1960 until 1962 and remember Frau Stoldt very well.

I have a group Facebook page on the internet that is comprised of a lot of the former students from Berlin American High School from the 1960s and I posted a message recently that Frau Stoldt had been found by the Berlin Brats group. I received responses from several students and one former faculty member who remembered her quite well.

She may remember Mr. Nick O'Neill, who taught math and algebra to junior high and high school students from 1962 until 1965. He remembered Frau Stoldt very well.

The Clark brothers, Neil and David, were twin brothers who were both taught by your mother for their German classes. Their younger brother, Mark, was also a student of hers I believe.

Some of the students who were taught by her had these responses to my message below:

Jim Branson: For those of you that remember Frau Stoldt, the other German teacher for junior high, I've just learned from Jeri Glass that she is going to try to make the Berlin Reunion in November of next year.

Doreen Maloney Anderson: That's wonderful!!

Doris Bourne: I had her in Jr. High for German.

David Clark: She was my German teacher....very good..... got me to work harder and improve my German. I have fond memories of Frau Anna Stoldt.

Mark Clark: David -- No doubt that is why you are as fluent in German as you are today.

Neil Clark: A nice teacher from East Germany - different style than Frau Doktor Schirmer. It would be a kick to see her again!
Meine Deutsche bleibt schlecht! but that is not the fault of my teachers in Berlin or college.

Mit vernarrten Gedächtnissen von Ihnen,
Jim Branson

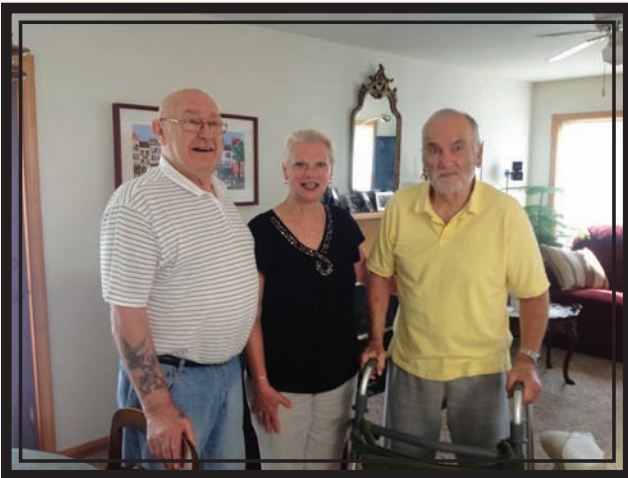
June 18, 2013

Hi Jeri, Jim, Nicholas and all the others,

This is really heart-warming to see how you remember your former teacher! I'll print your mails and give them to my Mom. Let's hope you will meet with her next year in Berlin, I guess I'd love to join you!

In any case, I'm on facebook (Ellen Orlowski) if this can make things easier.

With love, Ellen



Coach Smith and Coach Pepoy Reunion

Ron Harrison (asst. coach '71-72) sends this photo from Margaret Smith. Coach Smith and his wife went to visit with Coach Pepoy. Ron says it is great to see them together and wished that he and Glenna could have been there with them.

Ron is recovering slowly from a prostate surgery several weeks ago. All went well, but complete recovery may take a while. Ron, we wish you a quick recovery.

A Picture from the Vault: Awards Presented to Faculty

L to R:
Dana Straight (FAC '64-'67),
Joyce Fahrenholtz (FAC '64-'66),
Principal Cooper ('64-'66),
General John H. Hay,
Ms. Kilpatrick (FAC '63-'73), and
Roger Hawyer.

Submitted by: Stephanie (Cooper) Wright '70
and daughter of Principal Cooper.



Baseball from Berlin to Williamsport and the Missing Brats of 1960

Where are you, my friends? Where are you Alfred, Bruce H, Ralph, Tim, James H, Harold, and James I. I have spent the last three months looking for you! Fifty- three years is a long time to not keep in touch. I've often thought, "Shame on us for not keeping up with one another as the years went by." We did not realize that memories became more important as we grew older. Duke, Bruce, Charles, Mike, John, Ed and I have been in contact the last month, and all of us have had a wonderful life and are doing well. Duke, Charles, Ed and I are retired; Mike works for IBM, John is a Baptist pastor, and Bruce J owns BHJ Enterprise. Bruce has a family member, David Ash, that is the starting quarterback at the University of Texas, and Duke is expecting his first grandchild.

It all started on July 23, 1960, when 14 eleven and twelve year old boys were picked to represent Berlin in the German Regional Little League Championship in Bremerhaven. Off on the train we went on July 29, 1960 singing our theme song, " Good Timin'" by Jimmy Jones. There were 4 teams going to Bremerhaven: Bonn, Kassel, Bremerhaven and Berlin. Little did we know we would not be home for more than a month as we went to Bremerhaven, Mannheim, Wiesbaden, New York, Coney Island, Staten Island, West Point, New York Daily News, and of course, Williamsport, PA, home of the Little League World Series!



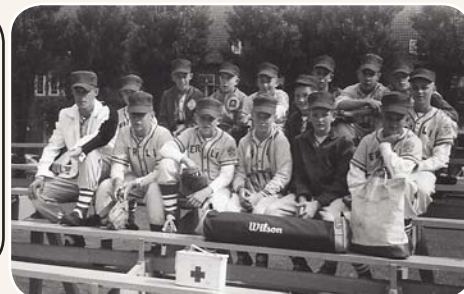
At Bremerhaven, we won 9 to 6 over Kassel and beat Bonn 23 -0 for the championship. We then trekked on to Mannheim for the German championships. During the first game, we beat Ramstein 9-2. Charles had 2 hits, Mike and Bruce had 2 hits and Bruce hit a double > I had 3 hits and John Reale gave up 1 earned run. In the final game, we beat Kitzingen 6-1. Ed Cole and Harold Ingle combined for a no- hitter in that championship game, and Duke had an RBI and scored a run. Boy oh boy were we having fun!

We then headed off to Wiesbaden to play teams from Spain, England, France, North Africa, Italy and Turkey. What were we thinking going to the European Championships? We were the smallest command with the fewest dependents! We only had 6 teams in our league and around

70 boys from which to choose. Well, first things first. Someone had to do the washing since we had been gone two weeks. Thanks, moms. It rained a lot at Wiesbaden, and helicopters were brought in to dry the field. They poured jet fuel on the infield and lit it to help it dry. Finally, we could play! During the first game, John Real threw a 2 hitter, and we beat England 3-0: Duke drove in a run and scored a run. In the second game, we beat Spain 13-0, and Lanky Ed Cole threw a 1 hitter; Charles had 3 hits. Now, we were in the championship against France. We were behind 6-5 going into the 5th inning. We scored 4 runs in the 5th and 6th innings to win 9-6. Ed Cole had 1 hit relief, and I had 3 RBI's and scored a run while Duke had 2 RBI's with a double off the wall, Mike score twice with 1 RBI. We were going to be the first team to represent Europe at the Little League World Series.



We were the first team from Europe to go to Williamsport, PA.
We had to beat Spain, France, Italy and others to go.
Won 1 game lost 2.
First time Little League let a European team into the World Series.



..... If you look in Little League history it mentions the Berlin team.

The photo above was taken in August 1960 after we had just won the European championship by my mother Athlalee Williams.

Found it cleaning out an attic.

Photos to the left are the army drying the field out so we could play. They used copters and burned the field with jet fuel to dry it out.

Pat Williams '65



In the last two tournaments that we played as a team, we hit .348, and held the opponents to a .131 batting average. We had a lot of great kids who were great baseball players. Every game somebody else came through for us. We were all friends and we were off to the land of the Big PX and our first soft serve ice cream. "Good Timin" was playing a lot.

We visited New York, Coney Island, Staten Island, West Point, New York Daily News before heading to Williamsport. We were treated unbelievably well by everyone. We had played all of ours game in cool weather. At Williamsport, boy was it hot. We lost to the Mexico team 7-4 after leading until the fourth inning. Ralph Freeman had a home run and Mike had an RBI and a double. During the next game, we beat Canada 6-3. In our last game, we lost to the team from Pearl Harbor 7-2 and finished 6th. After nearly a month on the road, we were on our way home. As we pulled in on the train August 30, 1960, there were signs congratulating us, and hundreds of parents, friends, and supporters met us at the station. We were still playing "Good Timin". Later, the Berlin Command gave us a banquet, a medal, a trophy, and a sports jacket; and the NCO Club gave us a cashmere coat. School soon started, our fathers began to be transferred, and friends moved. I wound up in San Antonio, Texas, and then we moved to Amarillo, Texas, when my father retired. We lost contact and grew old. Now Duke is now in California; Charles is in Pennsylvania. John and Mike are in Virginia, while Bruce J, Ed and I are in Texas.

When I think of my friends now I think, "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers".

Seven of us have reconnected and seven are still lost. Where are you, my friends?

by: Pat Williams '65 in collaboration with some of his teammates!

(Mentioned above: Ed Cole '66, Ralph Freeman '66, Harold Ingle '66, John Reale '65, Bruce Jager '66, Charles Spannare '65, Mike Glaser '66 and Christian "Duke" Dubia '66)

I would like to thank the Berlin Brat website (Cate Speer '85) and Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 for launching my search for my teammates.



1960 BERLIN All Star Little League Team

Team	Alfred Bradley, Jr., Bruce Jager '66, Edward Cole '66, John Reale '65, Christian "Duke" Dubia Jr., '66,
Members	Charles Spannare '65, Ralph Freeman '66, Patrick Williams '65, Michael Glaser '66, James Williams,
	Bruce Hampton, Timothy Harrison '66, James Ingle '66,
Coaches	SPC Mitchell McEwin, Harold Ingle, SPC Robert Meece.
AYA officer	Lt Morales

Order of the Arrow Black Eagle Lodge Patch Boy Scout BSA Historic Trail Berlin

Just thought I would share this item from eBay.

This is a patch (though smaller than the original) of the Berlin Historical Trail, a trail that our Boy Scout troop in Berlin (Troop 152, you might remember my mentioning that I got my Eagle Scout in Berlin in 1980) planned and hiked in the late 1970s.

Well, I designed this patch. I have the original prototypes, which were roughly made on material without the border, and then the first copies, which were larger at that time. I have purchased more of them over the years on eBay, and the later patches, such as this one, were made smaller - it must have saved them money.



A trip down memory lane... Peter Stein '80

Joe Morasco brought these items on Ebay to Jeri's attention. She contacted the present scoutmaster of Troop 46, who was able to make this Ebay purchase for the Troop's collection. The Berlin classmate was not named on Ebay.

BOY SCOUT MEMORABILIA TROOP 46 FREEDOM OUTPOST BERLIN GERMANY COLD WAR ERA 1950s

Here is a rare opportunity to obtain some very unique pieces of Boy Scout memorabilia from the only Boy Scout Troop established behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War Era.

This listing is for a vintage Boy Scout Shirt, Sash with nine Merit Badges, two Neckerchiefs, and a Frontiersman Patrol Pennant from Troop 46 "Freedom Outpost" Berlin, Germany circa late 1950's.

All items are in very good condition with normal wear for their age; the "Freedom Outpost" neckerchief is folded, but in excellent condition. (the 1957 Valley Forge neckerchief was traded for at the European Camporee)

Troop 46 "Freedom Outpost" was the first Scouting Troop behind the Iron Curtain and is one of the oldest existing Troops in the Transatlantic Council, which was created in May 1950 as EUCOM, BSA Advisory Board, and changed later to EUCOM Advisory Council.

Troop 46 was at that time sponsored by the Berlin Rod & Gun Club and the Scoutmaster was Jim Tice. When Tice took over the troop in August of 1957, he was too young under Scout rules to be anything but an assistant scoutmaster.

On his 21st birthday, Tice received a special certificate "promoting" him to Scoutmaster, and for a short time, he was the youngest Scoutmaster in the world.



The Berlin scout selling his memorabilia continues his scouting story. While living behind the Iron Curtain during the late 1950's Cold War Era, I was a member of BSA Troop 46, Panther / Frontiersman Patrol. I was also fortunate enough to win the Boy Scout Essay Contest award in 1958 while a member of the Troop,

as shown in the article from the Stars and Stripes below.

(note that I am wearing the shirt and sash)

Berlin Boy Scout Wins Bond in Essay Contest

An essay on "Why My Dad is in Berlin" won a \$25 Savings Bond for a Berlin Boy Scout here recently. The award was made at the annual scout Father and Son banquet on March 13.

Writing the winning entry was Michael, 2nd Class Scout of Berlin's Troop 46. The 13-year-old scout is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam, a Department of the Army civilian serving in the Island City.

"My dad, and all other Americans, are in Berlin because they want to keep Berlin the show window of democracy," wrote young

"If Berlin is taken by the Russians, freedom loving people all over the world will suffer. Berlin is the only city in which we can show the East Germans and the Russians our democratic way of living and our freedom," he stated.

Sponsoring the contest was Frank F. Megna, an American insurance consultant living in Berlin. During December, while on vacation in his hometown of Boston, Mr. Megna was amazed at the lack of knowledge displayed by Americans about the Berlin situation. He noted that the people who knew the least about the crisis were teenagers.

Determined to do something about this lack of information, he returned to Berlin and proposed an essay contest. The contest was open to 60 members of the Boy Scout program in Berlin. Entries were judged by Nelson Leach, a scout executive of the Transatlantic Council of the scouting movement.

In addition to the \$25 bond, the youth received a framed certificate from Mr. Megna on behalf of his company. Second place and \$5 went to 11-year-old John, son of Master Sergeant and Mrs. Coming in third and winning \$2.50 was the entry of Wally, 12, son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs.

...And For The Winners



FROM THE MAYOR—Mr. Frank F. Megna presents autographed photographs of Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt to Michael, John, and Wally (left to right), first, second and third place winners in the Boy Scout essay contest "Why My Dad is in Berlin." The photographs and letters of congratulations were sent to the boys, care of Mr. Megna who sponsored the contest. —US Army Photo by Sp5 Hashbarger



Historical Sign Fits Berlin Brats to a T or is it a U?

where better to have a Currywurst than by the Oskar Heleneheim Ubahn Station?



Cate Speer '85, Michelle (Arnold) Lastinger '87, Kristin Carlton '85, Natalie (Asp) Reader '85, Angie (Arnold) Doyle '85, Kim (Ronne) March '85, and husband Paul March.



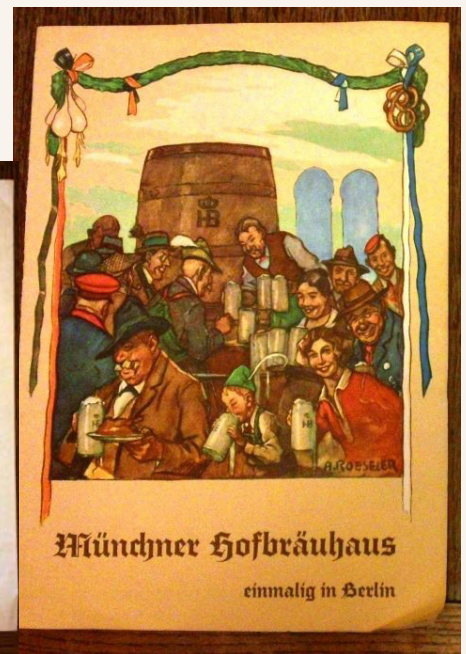
Schultheiss an der Gedachtniskirche

Berlin 15 • Kurfurstendamm 237
present day photo of restaurant

Timothy David Olsen '75
12:42pm Jul 20

On my 16th Birthday, my parents took me somewhere special to celebrate.

I just found my reminder of the night at the bottom of a box and wanted to share with you.



Mike Cannon (Heidelberg Brat) visits our "Berlin Wall" at the Museum of World Treasures in Wichita, KS, this month. Mike was in town to view the new Heidelberg additions at AOSHS... from HAHS closing this past June.

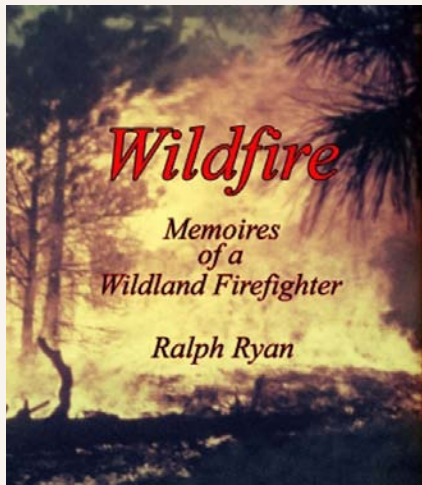
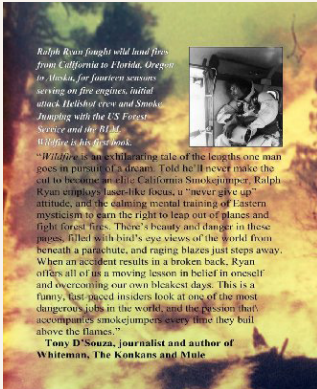


Meet Gunter Schmidt -
a native of Berlin who hung with the BAHS students in the early '60's.
"Gunter is wearing a Berlin "cubs" button."
(...remember we were the Cubs until '76 when we became the Bears!)
The rest of us look forward to meeting you next year in Berlin!"



Ralph Ryan '72 posted on Official OVERSEAS BRATS fan page's timeline:

"Greetings all,
I was a brat all my life and a Berlin Brat. After graduating from Berlin Am. HS,
I began a career fighting wildland fires and I just published
my wildland firefighting memoir titled: WILDFIRE by Ralph Ryan.
It's a riveting account of some of the highlights of my career as a California Smokejumper.
Available at Amazon.com
I would appreciate your support by checking it out. Thank you."
Ralph Ryan '72



Iggy Pop on stage
from the 1970's
(© picture-alliance / Copyright KPA)

Berlin S-Bahn Inspired Iggy Pop's "The Passenger"

Feb 21, 2013

Rocker Iggy Pop's biggest hit, The Passenger, was inspired by Berlin's regional train network, the S-Bahn. His former girlfriend and German photographer Esther Friedman told the ZEIT magazine that the song was "a hymn to Berlin's S-bahn" and that during his time in Berlin at the end of the 1970s, Iggy Pop "took a short trip with the S-bahn almost every day." "The rides inspired him to create the song – particularly the route to Wannsee." In Berlin, said Friedman, Iggy Pop could "sit in the corner bar next door" without being bothered – "He loved that." His friend and collaborator, David Bowie, "engaged with the literature and art that came from Berlin," Friedman said. "Both of them went to the Brücke Museum often."

Friedman said that beginning in 1976 she documented her daily life with the artist for seven years in photos that have yet to be released. She explained that Iggy Pop moved to West Berlin with David Bowie and met Friedman at a party. The difference between his rock star persona and his private personality was wide, said the photographer. She added that in his rocker role he was "99 percent unbearable," but that as a private person he was "99 percent bearable."

ZEIT Magazine: Der Pop der frühen Jahre

Commencement 1979

Recently Added to Our Scrapbook

CLASS OF 1979

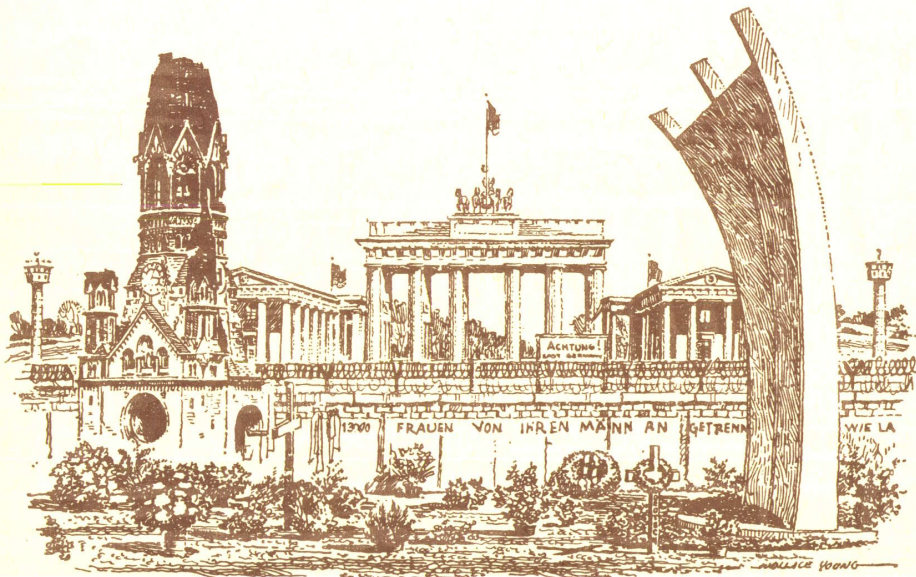
John Joseph Benning
 Therese Marie Beranek
 Elizabeth Biron
 James Richard Branam
 Ricky T. Brown
 Susan Faith Buckman
 Eric Dean Bybee
 *Sarah B. Chapman
 + William D. Charlton
 **Tulip Chaudhury
 James R. Cichy
 + Steven M. Coffin
 Deborah Darlene Cohoon
 Laura Lee Colangelo
 Tracy Lee Crouch
 Sherry Ann Crowson
 Nicholas Lee Diehm
 Julie Elizabeth Donoghue
 + Thomas R. Dorry
 John Owen Drzewicki
 Derha Christina Duncan
 + Julia Ann Ely
 Lucretia Ann Floyd
 Stephen Crawford Foster
 Christopher Andrew Fox
 Betty Ann Furner
 + Elizabeth Ann George
 Robert L. George
 Valerie Vanessa Hassell
 Cheryl Ann Higgins
 Alice Ann Jaynes
 Michael T. Jense
 Jeff Allen Jones
 Melanie Ann Jordan
 Robert Ledford
 Regenia Lee
 Sarah Eileen Lewkowicz
 Susanne Lee Lowen
 Vicki Louise Maultsby
 Beate G. McGinnis
 + Paola Meimaris
 James Franklin Mickael
 Carlton Elizabeth Nelson
 + Thomas Charles Ott
 Marianne D. Palombo
 Eric Michael Paulson
 Frank Warner Paysen
 Karin Pennock
 Susan Kay Petersen
 + Eugene Gordon Peterson, Jr.
 + Edward William Phillips
 Leslie Ann Pompa
 Kathleen Shirley Poulos
 Kelli Kay Proctor
 + James Edward Reilly
 Pamela Robinson
 Lilyann Rubacky
 John Mark Schleifer
 + Paul Daniel Schneider
 Sherry Lee Senay
 Andora Lee Setzer
 Peter T. Shoemaker
 John Michael Sisk
 Cathy Sladaritz
 + Gordon George Roger Slifer
 Amanda Smith
 Billy William Smith
 Charles Edward Smith II
 Robert Clay Smith
 + Stephen Fletcher Steger
 Suzanne Stovall
 Dean Allen Taylor
 Pamela Jean Thurston
 Robert Edward Toupin
 John R. Tuite, Jr.
 Myra Lynne Turner
 + Laura Elizabeth Upchurch
 Christopher R. Vorrath
 Diane Marie Westrom
 Alphonso Williams
 + Donald L. Winchester

** Valedictorian

* Salutatorian

+ National Honor Society

Berlin American High School Class of 1979



Reichstag

14:00 hours Sunday 10 June 1979

COMMENCEMENT

1979 Yearbook Passage

The ninety-four members of the Class of '79 started the year with a lot of hope and anticipation. Led by class officers, Dean Taylor, Paul Schneider and Gordon Slifer, and co-sponsors, Mr. Huffer and Mr. Babineau, the seniors sold ice cream at the Tempelhof Open House to raise money for Homecoming and Graduation. The result of two days of "Moechten sie Eis?" and "Wollen sie es nach Hause nehmen?" was \$2887 - enough to let the class buy Yearbook ads and school sweaters.

FACULTY

W. Alerding
 R. Babineau
 A. Barlow
 L. Beamer
 A. Benson
 C. Biberstine
 C. Bluem
 J. Chavies
 M. Coffin
 J. Conway
 C. Ewing
 J. Ferguson
 G. Haynie
 A. Hildenbrand
 R. Howe
 C. Huffer
 R. Kubarek
 O. Lazenby
 A. Leonard
 G. Lindstrom
 K. Long
 R. Moeller
 D. Morton
 C. Okura
 V. Olander
 M. Olvera
 D. Orton
 B. Payne
 K. Payne
 G. Pepoy
 J. Pinschmidt
 D. Priebe
 W. Prigge
 M. Rekucki
 R. Risner
 R. Schiel
 R. Sennett
 D. Snyers
 R. Stowell
 P. Sullivan
 M. Voigt
 R. Walton
 N. Warner
 C. White
 C. Wieland
 E. Winchester



The greatest show of the Class of 1979's individualism was when the class decided to hold its commencement exercises at the Reichstag. There were many "oohs" and "ahs" although seniors arranged it all without much trouble and then settled down to a peaceful(?) year of college applications, entrance exams and American Government Courses.



Class Photo



Below are words of wisdom from the Class of 1979 from the yearbook

John Sink: The mistakes of Youth are preferable to the wisdom of old age.

Cary Nelson: I'm not sure if I beleive in God, but I do beleive in a supreme being that watches over the entire universe.... except for certain parts of New Jersey.

Cheryl Higgins: No one can imitate me as well as I can.

John Schleifer: People who blurt out what they think wouldn't be so bad if they thought.

Sarah Lewkowicz: Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing worth knowing can be taught.

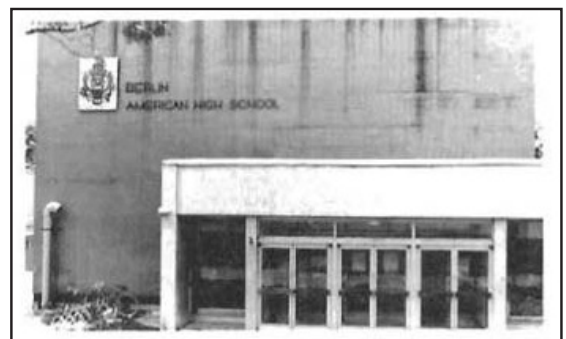
Tom Dorry: Eternal nothingness is all right if you are dressed for it.

Beate McGinnis: No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Susan Petersen: Music and memories go together for they last forever.

Leslie Moore: Happy memories like a lighted candle light the dark places of life.

Sherry Senay: If humanity could be taught self-control and selfishness control, there would be no need for atom control.



As the school year 1978-79 drew to a close, many of us said farewell to our friends, not knowing if we would ever meet again. But, no matter how far we go and whatever we do, we shall never be able to break the bond that once held us together. That bond is the timeless voice that will follow us around and remind us each, wherever we are,
..... **"Ich war ein Berliner."**



LTG General Marsh

With sadness I convey, LTG General Marsh died this past Friday at his home in north Atlanta. He was a dear friend of my fathers and just a genuinely great man who loved being around children.

General Marsh ran my father's company, Omega Training when he sold it to Cubic Applications in 2007. He will be greatly missed by his family and by his Omega family but I wanted to share this with you as he was stationed in Berlin in the late 80's and many may remember him or his family.

Jennifer Shaw
 Class of 1985 Co-Contact
 Scholarship Committee Chairperson
www.berlinbrats.org
jennifershaw85@gmail.com

Under his watch, the Berlin Wall came down.



LTG Caryl Glenn Marsh at a retirement party with some former employees.

Memorial contributions may be made in his name
 LTG Caryl Glenn Marsh to the
 Wounded Warrior Project.

Condolences may be expressed on-line at www.mcdonaldandson.com.

LTG Marsh.....had two tours in Berlin and had 3 Brats at our school.
 Jeff '82, Regina '83 and John '90.

Our condolences go out to Jeff, Regina, John
 and the rest of their family.

Glenn was an all around great man, and an AMAZING leader!!!
 He was the type of man that did not brag on himself, or would want everyone to know what rank, or what position he held. Glenn always wanted the best for his troops and his employees'.
 Glenn was a down to earth simple, kind hearted man, as well as a GOD fearing man.
 We lost someone dear to all of us, and anybody that knew Glenn or worked for him,
 knows exactly the type of man he was.

The hunter in him is what kept him youthful,
 and Daisy his dog was a big part of his life.

Family was very important to him,
 his grand kids was his heart!!

Glenn followed me home one day after work, because
 I was having issues with my car not starting, he wanted
 to make sure I made it home safely. I will never forget that,

He cared enough to make sure I made it home.

I felt completely honored to have worked
 for a three star general,

I could not have asked for a better boss,
 leader, and friend.

RIP Glenn,
 Natascha (Smith) Glab '87

Kip Taylor 's Flag

I stopped at Tempe Healing Fields this evening and shared a few private moments with Kip Taylor's memorial flag. If you or any other Brats in Phoenix have time, the fields are open the rest of this week.

What: September 11th Memorial

Where: Tempe Beach Park, Tempe, AZ



Tom Ott '79

When: September 10th – 14th from 5am-11pm

Why: Honor those killed on September 11th, 2001

<http://raillife.com/tempe-healing-field-911-tribute/>

Three more Berlin Observers have been added to the Berlin Observer website, www.theberlinobserver.com. I sent Joe Morasco the few we had found cleaning out my parent's barn. Veterans Day and Thanksgiving will be coming up before the next newsletter and I would like to show a couple of entries from two of the Observer Issues at which time John F. Kennedy was President.

Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71



Friday 8th of November 1963

VETERANS DAY 1963 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Congress has designated the eleventh of November as a legal holiday known as Veterans Day and dedicated to the cause of world peace (Act of May 13, 1938, 52 Stat. 351, as amended (5 U.S.C. 87a)); and

—proclamation
WHEREAS, this day has an important dual significance in that it gives each one of us an opportunity both to pay due honors to the dedicated men and women of all races and religious beliefs who have honorably served in our Armed Forces in time of war and to reemphasize our determination to achieve world peace with patience and perseverance, and with courage; and

WHEREAS, each one of us should have an opportunity to participate in publicly observing the two fold purpose of this day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN F. KENNEDY, President of the United States of America, call upon the people of this nation to observe Monday, November 11, as Veterans Day, remembering those who have borne the burden in time of war and resolving with one accord to achieve a just and lasting peace throughout the world.

I request the officials of the Federal and State Governments to work together with the Veterans Day National Committee that this day be appropriately commemorated by exercises and ceremonies in every part of our country.

I also direct the appropriate officials of the Government to arrange for the display of the flag of the United States on all public buildings on Veterans Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this first day of October in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-eighth.

/s/ John F. Kennedy

By the President:
/s/ Dean Rusk
Secretary of State



Friday 22nd of November 1963

JFK's Thanksgiving Message Recalls Lincoln's Words

In his 1963 Thanksgiving proclamation, President John F. Kennedy reached back into the wisdom of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington to inspire Americans' observance of the holiday.

It was the early American settlers who, far from home in a lonely wilderness, set aside a time of thanksgiving, the President's proclamation read.

It was President George Washington who proclaimed Nov 26, 1789, as "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God," calling upon the people of the new republic to "beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions."

"And so too, in the midst of America's tragic civil war, President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November, 1863, as a day to renew our gratitude for America's 'fruitful fields,' for our 'national strength and vigor,' and for all our 'singular deliverances and blessings,'" President Kennedy said.

"Today we are a nation of nearly 200 million souls, stretching from coast to coast, on into the Pacific and north toward the Arctic, a nation enjoying the fruits of an ever-increasing agriculture and industry and achieving standards of living unknown in previous history," the President proclaimed.

"We give our humble thanks for this.

"Yet, as our power has grown, so has our peril. Today we give our thanks . . . for the ideals of honor and faith we inherit from our forefathers — for the decency of purpose, steadfastness of resolve and strength of will, for the courage and the humility, which they possessed and which we must seek everyday to emulate.

"As we express our gratitude," the President said, "we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them.

"Let us therefore proclaim our gratitude to Providence for manifold blessings — let us be humbly thankful for inherited ideals — and let us resolve to share those blessings and those ideals with our fellow human beings throughout the world." (AFPS).

Willy Brandt

During his lifetime, he travelled to more than 80 countries on all continents and was at home at airports: Willy Brandt, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, German Chancellor, leader of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) and Governing Mayor of Berlin. The new Berlin Brandenburg Airport will bear the name of the honourable politician and global citizen.

The working class boy from Lübeck was regarded by many Germans as a leading international figure and a 'patriarch' of social democracy in Germany, gaining recognition from his political opponents. His comment on German reunification is now a figure of speech: *'What belongs together is now growing together.'*

A gesture which caused everyone to hold their breath gained Willy Brandt a place in the history books. His Kniefall von Warschau (Warsaw Genuflection) on 7 December 1970, in honour of the victims of crimes committed by the Germans in the former Jewish ghetto, turned the former German Chancellor into a symbol of peace and freedom in Europe.

Following his death on 8 October 1992, Willy Brandt was honoured many times: streets and squares were named after him, including



Willy-Brandt-Strasse in front of the Chancellor's Office in Berlin. Now the new airport of the city of Berlin bears his name – a city whose history would have taken a very different course if it weren't for Willy Brandt.

The namesake of the new airport will maintain a permanent presence:

The lettering 'Berlin Brandenburg Airport Willy Brandt' will be visible from afar to passengers on the Departures Level of the terminal. A central open space in Airport City, a 16-hectare development in front of the terminal, will invite passengers of the new airport to linger awhile. This will be called Willy-Brandt-Platz.

Willy Brandt will also be present in the terminal: all those interested can obtain information on the life and work of Willy Brandt at an interactive installation in the main check-in hall.

- See more at: <http://www.berlin-airport.de/en/travellers>

A new-generation airport

The concept for Berlin Brandenburg Airport envisages a modern airport with all facilities within easy reach and a terminal located between two parallel runways. BER represents a new generation of airports: functional, cosmopolitan and featuring contemporary architecture. The capital region will be able to provide business travellers, tourists and companies with a new airport that offers the best connections, international flights, direct motorway access, and a railway station directly beneath the terminal.

Embarrassing for Berliners - the airport has experienced set backs in its construction and engineering of its facilities, possibly delaying the opening until Spring of 2015.

The website for the airport and air travel into Berlin is available online.

Links to events and All subjects pertaining to visiting Berlin are provided through the airport website.

BER FLUGHAFEN
BERLIN
BRANDENBURG

visit  Berlin

<http://www.berlin-airport.de>

Subject: Fwd: KILROY WAS HERE



He is engraved in stone in the National War Memorial in Washington, DC, back in a small alcove where very few people have seen it. For the WWII generation, this will bring back memories. For you younger folks, it's a bit of trivia that is a part of our American history.

Anyone born from 1913 to about 1950 is familiar with Kilroy. No one knew why he was so well known, but everybody got into it. I even remember seeing him around public places in the late 60s.

So who the heck was Kilroy?

In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the real Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article. Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts, had evidence of his identity.

'Kilroy' was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war who worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet. He would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark.

Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time, resulting in double pay for the riveters.

One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters and asked him to investigate. It was then he realized what had been going on. The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his check mark on each job he inspected but added 'KILROY WAS HERE' in king-sized letters next to the check and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message.

Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks. Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With the war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them. As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced.



His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific.

Before war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long hauls **to Berlin** and Tokyo. To the troops outbound in those ships, however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that someone named Kilroy had "been there first." As a joke, US servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived. Kilroy became the US super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable. It is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, **the underside of the Arc de Triomphe**, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon. As the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for coming invasions by US troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GIs there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo!

In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill **at the Potsdam conference**. Its' first occupant was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?"

To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave to his nine children as a Christmas gift, and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy yard in Halifax, Massachusetts.

And the tradition continues...



Huffington Post, BJ Gallagher, Posted: 07/03/2013

Independence Babies... the Littlest Patriots



On this Independence Day all across the country, patriotic music is being played, parades march down Main Street USA, speeches are given, and small flags stand silent sentry on military graves, as we pause to honor those courageous patriots who founded our country. Today we also honor the brave men and women who are putting their lives on the line every day, here and abroad, to protect our freedom and independence.

But there is one more group, often overlooked on patriotic holidays -- they are the children of soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines. We call them "military brats" -- they are the sons and daughters of warriors.

There are millions of military brats today -- from the tiniest tykes whose dads and moms are serving overseas in Iraq or other hot spots, as well as at military bases here in the U.S. -- to middle-aged Baby Boomers whose dads (and a few moms in those days) fought in WW II, the Korean War, and of course, the Viet Nam War. These military brats were drafted at birth -- they had no choice about whether or not they wanted to live a military lifestyle. And they, like their warrior fathers and mothers, have paid an enormous price to protect the freedoms and privileges that most of us take for granted.

I am one of those military brats. I was born in Orange, California, on the Fourth of July -- a auspicious birthday for a military kid. Mom and I sailed to Japan when I was nine months old to join my dad, who was fighting overseas. I didn't see U.S. soil again until I was almost three years old.

Gallagher family, Tachikawa, Japan, 1952

I spent my formative years moving from base to base -- from Texas to Montana, from California to Virginia, from Germany to Illinois, from Dover to Puerto Rico. I was at home nowhere -- and I was at home everywhere. I learned to make friends quickly, because I knew I would lose them quickly. We were like traveling gypsies, moving from place to place, packing and unpacking... only to do it all over again six months or two years later.

Such a lifestyle has its advantages, of course. I was able to see the world, live in Europe, learn a foreign language at an early age, taste exotic foods and see interesting places that many people only dream of. I had exciting adventures and enjoyed wonderful experiences -- all courtesy of the U.S. government.

But there was a price I paid, too -- like all military brats. Loneliness, wrenching departures from beloved friends, having to change school umpteen times, and sometimes living in places I didn't like.

The biggest price I paid, along with the other kids, was enormous anxiety. For you see, Death was always lurking around in the background... but no one ever talked about it. For when you are the child of a warrior, you never know for sure when your daddy (or mommy) is going to be called to fight a battle somewhere... or who might be killed in training exercises or plane crashes, even in peacetime.

My dad was a pilot in the Air Force, and I can't tell you the number of times I lay in my bed at night, overhearing my mom on the phone in the other room, as she called the control tower to ask what Major Gallagher's ETA (Estimated Time of Arrival) was. I worried, What if my daddy doesn't come home? What if his plane crashes? When I was eight years old my best friend lost her daddy when his plane crashed into the side of a mountain -- and it wasn't even a war. I knew if it happened to her, it could happen to me, too. It could happen to any of us military brats. We all grow up with a fundamental awareness of the precariousness of life... fearing that our warrior dads and moms could be killed anytime, anywhere.

So this Fourth of July, let us honor not only our founders who declared our independence -- let us also honor the brave men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting our independence. And let us not overlook the brave boys and girls who die a thousand little deaths waiting for their daddies and mommies to come home every night.

Military brats serve their country, too -- they pay a price for our freedom. They are the littlest patriots. Remember them. Thank them. Hug them.

From the Berlin Observer

"Folk music is a gas," says Chaplain (Captain) Robert Speer, and therein lies a folksy tale. Chaplain Speer, who likes to be called "Bob", recently came to Berlin to serve as the Protestant Chaplain at McNair Barracks. With him he brought two guitars, a recorder and a few other musical odds and ends.



Chaplain Bob Speer

Together with his attractive wife Lorraine, the young Episcopalian chaplain has managed to strike a few harmonious chords of communication in this soldier community just by doing what he calls "his own thing." "Everyone likes to get together for a good time and a song or two," he says, "and I find that it is one of the best ways to communicate with other people. After all, that's what its all about." Soldiers who "dig" his sound could hardly agree more. Chaplain Speer and his wife have livened up many an evening at the little white church in the McNair compound, and have even sung up a storm on AFTV's "Potpourri" and other places around Berlin.

The troops like the informal approach, and it gives them an opportunity to talk "straight across the board" about matters close to their hearts.

Music has always been an important part of the folk singing duo's life. They started out together as high school sweethearts in Great Falls, Montana, where he played oboe and she played violin in the school orchestra. From there it was a mutual admiration society that took them to the University of Montana where they finally traded in the violin and an old lute for their first guitar to play together at informal gatherings and found it was a great way to both relax and communicate at the same time. The musical bond deepened during Chaplain Speer's schooling at the Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. After he was ordained he entered the Army chaplaincy in 1967. Before coming to Berlin he served at Fort Hood, Texas, and then with the 101 Airborne Division in Vietnam.



Lorraine Speer

"Every where I've served I've found a great receptivity to music," he says. "Young people today are interested in finding out about themselves and others are hearing some answers in both old and new folk songs all over the world. It's a good way to get people together, and I think it helps immeasurably with the kind of work I'm doing. Right now, Chaplain Speer and his wife have a wide repertoire covering everything from old English ballads to current tunes by Peter, Paul and Mary, Ian and Sylvia and the Clancey Brothers. When they are not using two guitars and singing, Chaplain Speer sometimes adds a few melodious notes on his recorder. "In the future we want to get more people interested in folk music with informal gatherings and hootenays," he says. "We've had great luck so far, and I've really been impressed with the receptivity here in Berlin to new ways of doing things." As Chaplain Speer explains it, folk music is his "bag". It's a new language, and one that the soldier understands.

The Speer Brats, Larry '83 and Cate '85 were in Berlin 3 different times:
'69-'72, '76-'77 and '80-'83.

Berlin's 'Tropical Islands': Vacationing Inside A Dome

by TAM EASTLEY

June 13, 2012



Last year when I was on my way to Spreewald, I saw a sign on the side of the autobahn for Tropical Islands.

Ever since, I've been dying to go. When I bugged my friends to come with me and explained to them what it was, most would raise their eyebrow and give me an odd look.

But a few weeks ago, I finally went, and I just can't get the Tropical Islands out of my head.

The Tropical Islands are located about 60 kilometers south of Berlin and are housed within the largest free-standing dome in the world. It's 360 meters long, 210 meters wide, 107 meters high, and is supported by 14,000 tons of steel.

It stands in the middle of nowhere, so coming across it is a wondrous sight to behold. The dome is enormous, shocking, and majestic; the Statue of Liberty can stand up inside of it, and the Eiffel Tower can lie down in it. If that's not impressive enough, it can hold within it Potsdamer Platz and all of its skyscrapers.

From the turnstiles, you can hear the sounds of a jungle, splashing water, birds, and laughter. Through the gates lies an incredibly cheesy and amazing water park.

The land the hangar now sits on was purchased in 1998 by the German firm CargoLifter. The firm intended to construct a heavy-lift air ship capable of carrying over 150 tons of material, but the hangar was built first, and the air ship was never completed. The company went bankrupt in 2002 and Brandenburg was left with an enormous and empty structure.

At Berlin's Tropical Islands, sandy beaches line the tropical sea, and a backdrop of a sky makes visitors forget they're inside a dome... almost.



Sunbathing by the tropical sea is a popular activity at Tropical Islands.

In 2003, the hangar was bought by the Malaysian company Tanjong and was transformed far and away from its previous life. From concrete to tropics, the dome has a wondrous new purpose.

Inside are two pools. The tropical sea is lined with sandy beaches and dotted with small tropical islands decorated with grass huts. Against the grey hangar wall is a backdrop of a blue sky with a few clouds.

The Balinese lagoon is more adventurous, with waterfalls, a whirlpool, and hot tubs. The trails around the lagoon are spotted with small bamboo lamps, and above the waterfall are huts (available to rent) with laundry hanging out to dry. Cottages surround the lagoon and hammocks hang from their porches. Occasionally, a gold pheasant, a blue breasted quail, or a peacock will saunter by and dip its foot in the 32 degree water.

Surrounding the pools are re-creations of famous architectural wonders from Asia like Angkor Wat (home to the sauna), the Balinese Temple Gate (the largest one outside of Bali), a longhouse from Borneo, and a traditional Thai house. Ponds and canals wind their way around various activity sites, and large Buddha statues are everywhere.

In the middle of the hangar is a tropical rainforest with a kilometer-long upwards snaking pathway. The windows on one side of the dome are transparent, allowing real sunshine to come in and nourish over 50,000 different types of flora, which makes the rainforest the largest indoor rainforest in the world.



Banana trees, palm trees, flesh-eating plants, coffee bushes, and a mangrove swamp grow in equilibrium with one another. Various insects are used to keep the ecosystem under control, and the rainforest apparently survives without the use of chemicals. To compensate for the inability to host larger animals like orangutans, crocodiles, and jaguars, carved and painted wooden animals are placed in the rainforest in odd and unexpected ways. Together with the sight of a water slide in the distance and, of course, an enormous grey dome overhead, the out of place animals draw violent and somewhat silly attention to the fact that you are not, actually, on a tropical island.

Tropical Islands makes for a fun day trip from Berlin, but overnight stays in the dome are also possible, as well as camping outside or townhouse rentals. Before going, I'd heard that food and drinks were outrageously expensive, one friend exclaiming that a bottle of Coke cost five Euro, but I was pleasantly surprised to find that beer was average price and that inexpensive food options did exist, although the vegetarian selection was meager at best. Unfortunately, outside food isn't allowed out of fear it will damage the ecosystem.

By the end of the day, I was worn out and happy from a day of swimming, snoozing in the sand, and wandering around the tropical village. At times, I would see some grey out the corner of my eye, and fear that a storm was rolling in, but then I'd quickly remember that I was inside, the grey was a dome, and that I wasn't on an exotic vacation after all. But for most of the day it felt like I was, and that's all that really matters.

How to get there: take the regional train from Lichtenberg to Brand (approximately 10 Euro for a return ticket) and then board the free shuttle bus that waits for visitors at the station. Admission is 35.50 Euro for adults and less for students and children. Sauna, water slide, and evening shows cost extra.

There are over 50,000 different types of plants in the rainforest of the Tropical Islands.

Inside the dome, is, as the name suggests, a tropical paradise. Walking through the door, the sudden humidity and heat is overwhelming. It's 26 degrees Celsius all year round, and the floor is heated.

Important tip:
the Tropical Islands are free on your birthday, regardless of age. Just bring ID.

1978 DYA Junior All-Stars



Bus ride from Frankfurt to Stuttgart for the 1978 DYA All-Star Game —
with Nicole Naquin Branson '83 and Mike Short '82.

Shared by: Liese Hutchison '83



TAR - back yard on a wintry day - circa 1964
This photo was provided by Lewis D. Walls, Jr. '74.

Berlin Brat Alumni Gathering –

Washington DC Oktoberfest 2013



When: Saturday, October 19, 2013

Where: Old Europe Restaurant

2434 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington DC 20007

3:00 – 5:00 pm Appetizers

5:00 pm Buffet opens

7:30 pm Group Photo

Restaurant closes at 10:00 pm

Cost: \$35.00 per person fee (includes taxes and gratuity)

Cash Bar

RSVP: Joyce Mallon (571) 278-8360 or jjjmall@aol.com

Linda Robinson Talley (301) 653-0513 or lrtalley@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

27-28 September 2013

Oktoberfest

Helen, GA

Hosted by:

Diane (Westrom) Allen '79

.....

9 November 2013

WurstFest, New Braunfels, Texas

Contact: Roo (Eargle) Moran '73

SHARE YOUR STORIES

Be part of the

Berlin Brats Book Project

www.bratsoverseas.com

Submit to:

bratsoverseas@yahoo.com

Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 &

Trisha Lindsey '82

Thanks!



Next Reunion

BERLIN 2014

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WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org

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By invitation only

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for an invite

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