



Brats Overseas Book Project - Nearing its Deadline!

Get Your Narrative in by April 30th



If you're like most Brats, your time as a Brat living overseas was an incredible, unforgettable experience. Often the uniqueness (and strangeness) of our experiences are lost on the non-brat. However, if you've ever been to a reunion or hung out with other Brats since then, you discovered that you were finally talking to people who understood. These were people with a common heritage: being an overseas Brat.

The project is a compilation book that chronicles the experiences of Brats and educators who lived overseas, specifically Berlin.

The project leaders are looking for narratives that describe what it was like to live in Berlin. This would include academic, home and social life. Stories about sports and school-related travel, as well as family trips are all acceptable topics. We want to know about any way in which your life was impacted by your time living overseas.

Submit your stories - via email to: bratsoverseas@yahoo.com.

Pictures are also requested. They are seeking historical as well as personal ones. Pictures from vacations, school trips, famous visits, etc.

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Some stories still needed:

Closing of the school in '94, Pam Am Brats, Preachers kids, Choral & Band stories, the Barracuda swim team, Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts, experience of attending both JFK & BAHS, stories on famous visits: Bob Hope, Ed Sullivan, Kennedy, Apollo 11 astronauts, President Reagan, etc.

The time we Brats spent living in Berlin was one of the most exciting and culturally enriching time of our lives, and is a piece of history that should be chronicled and preserved.

With the April 30th deadline for stories the goal is for completion in time for our Reunion this fall in Berlin. (Nov 8-11, 2014)
A portion of the proceeds will go to the Berlin Brats Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

What better way to support our whole Brat family?!

The Fall of the Berlin Wall – too Weird to Believe!

By: Gary Kelb – Faculty
Music Teacher '86-'92

November 9, 1989 was very much a normal day in the life of West Berliners and their Ally friends. I was hosting a Music Boosters meeting at my house in Nikolaussee. Among the attendees was Col. Maddox. In the middle of the meeting, I received a phone call from my BAHS colleague, Sandy Riggins, and she was calling to tell me that the Wall was open. Oddly enough, I said thank you, turned to the others present and delivered the same message and then we continued with our meeting. The enormity of this event was simply too hard for us to comprehend – just too weird to believe. There was no TV to turn on at my house and certainly no internet to access. We concluded our meeting and everyone went home, none the wiser of the great event of 9 November 1989.

As planning would have it, I left for Hamburg, Germany, the next morning at 4:00 a.m. I was on my way to do some family research at the State Archives. That Friday, 10 November, was free due to our Veteran's Day Holiday. I was barely finished saluting the first group of Soviet guards at Checkpoint Bravo when I began to realize that things were no longer normal. Driving through the drab and eventless East German transit route to Checkpoint Alpha had become a party. There was honking and waving to no end. I processed through Alpha and it finally dawned on me, The Wall was Open! I stopped at the first Raststaette in West Germany to converse with some East Germans. There were three guys there and they were incredibly jubilant. "Our wives have no idea where we are. We heard the news on the evening shift at work and we just had to go and see if it was true." I gave them DM 20 and asked them to enjoy cake and coffee on me.

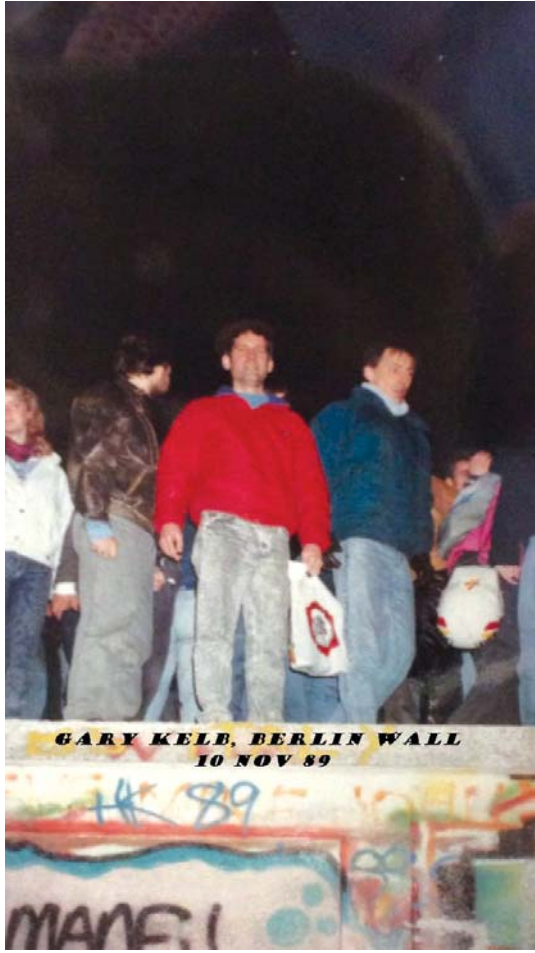
For some reason, I stupidly drove on to Hamburg. I arrived at the Staatsarchiv and there were the pre-ordered microfilms waiting for me at a table. I sat down and said to myself, "What are you doing here?" I immediately got up and drove back towards Berlin. I got to Checkpoint Alpha. The TV crews were there filming those leaving East Germany and going into West Germany.

Westerners had lined the streets and were throwing money and candy and fruit into the cars. Tears of joy were to be seen on so many faces. The line of cars getting ready to cross the border was over 40 miles long!

After celebrating on the border for a good thirty minutes, I continued my journey back to West Berlin. Arriving first at home, I got myself organized for joining the party and took the S-Bahn down to JFK Platz at Rathaus Schoeneberg. The chancellor of West Germany, Helmut Kohl, was expected there in a few minutes. I listened proudly to his speech which was concluded by the singing of the German National Hymn. The assembled crowd strongly disagreed with him on the timing of this hymn. Whistling, a sign of dissatisfaction, was the overwhelming sound at this time.

My ultimate destiny was next, Brandenburger Tor – the Brandenburg Gate. I think I must have arrived around 2000 hrs and up I went and sat on top of the Brandenburg Gate section of the Wall into the wee hours of the morning. I remember very distinctly a film crew taking pictures at about 2:00 a.m. and I was diligent to hide my face. I explained to my neighbor that, as a member of the U.S. military in West Berlin, I wasn't supposed to be up there. He responded that he was East German and he wasn't supposed to be up there either.





**GARY KELB, BERLIN WALL
10 NOV 89**

The greatest impression of the evening was that, every once in awhile, someone would jump over the Wall into the East Berlin side of the Wall. Fortunately, the VoPos (Volkspolizei) would catch them and put them back on the Wall.

I so wanted to do this. No, I would reason with myself, they will know you are American and lock you away. On the other hand, maybe I would be the only American ever that could say, "I jumped over the Wall." Enough was enough, I mustered up enough courage to overcome the fears and over the Wall I went! Ecstatic! Yes, they caught me and then they placed me right back on top of the Wall from whence I had just jumped in to East Berlin.

Gary Kelb

Brat Guestbook Entry from Matt Bentley '94
- a student who was on top of
the Wall at the Brandenburg Tor

Matt Bentley
Graduating_Year: 94
Actual_Years: 89 - 91
E-Mail: Mattxphx@gmail.com
Address: 124 E. Fremont Dr
City: Tempe, AZ 85282

Comments: Where do I even start? I stood on top of the Wall in front of Brandenburg Gate with the principal's son, Kevin Steinman '94 the day they announced the opening of the checkpoints. It was the day after we had a dance at the school and I spent the night at his house only to be told the Wall is coming down and we were going to check it out.

The things I saw that day changed my life.

I sang in the church choir, and was in Club Beyond and went on their Italy trip as well as the ski trip to the Matterhorn. I was in band and choir under the furled brow of Mr. Kelb and was manager of the Cross Country team. I attended JFK Schule for a little bit, but it wasn't for me. Mark Fowler '94 tried to beat me up at an U-Bahn stop, I attempted skateboarding with Ruben Solis '94 and Chris Rafferty '94 but never got good at it and have always wondered what ever happened to Steve Jones '93. I always wish I would have graduated there for the last class in '94 and would do anything to go back and see it all again. Also I would like a time machine to go back and take DJ classes from Van Tell at the Youth Center. I am on Facebook as Mattx Buddy. Stop by and say hi.



Great Things are Happening!

The Scholarship Committee is so excited to announce the 3rd Scholarship offering of the Berlin Brats Alumni Reunion Scholarship program which will be offered at our reunion in November 2014. Application and details will be available in May 2014 via your Class Contacts and the website at www.berlinbrats.org. However with that said, we have already started to receive funding dollars for the program via the Reunion Application Form. Many of you have generously donated or “rounded up” to this great cause and we are thankful for your generous support.

At this time, due to logistics of running a Silent Auction in Berlin (previously the primary funding support for the scholarships), scholarships for the 2014 offering will only be funded by alumni contributions. Great news for those not able to attend the reunion in November! You are still able to contribute to this wonderful cause which offers scholarships to our alumni and their children for furthering their education.

Just mail your check to:

Berlin Brats Alumni Association
41910 N. Crooked Stick
Anthem AZ 85086

Your contribution is greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged in November when scholarship awards are presented.

We are also excited to announce our first 90's committee member and welcome Michelle Estes, Class of 1990 to our committee selection process.
(Many of you had the opportunity to actually meet Michelle at our 2012 Reunion. She was the one promoted from Major to LTC on Banquet Night!)

Michelle is a great asset to the scholarship committee and to the alumni association overall and we welcome her input and skills in making this the best scholarship offering to date!



The Scholarship Committee presenting awards at the 2012 Reunion in Washington, D.C.

Great things continue to happen through our wonderful alumni and faculty support! We are so excited to be able to continue offering these scholarships and hope you feel the same way!

Bratfully yours,

The Scholarship Committee
Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85
Deb (Brians) Clark '74
Michelle Estes '90

The Military Child

"The official flower of the military child is the dandelion. Why? The plant puts down roots almost anywhere, and it's almost impossible to destroy. It's an unpretentious plant, yet good looking. It's a survivor in a broad range of climates. Military children bloom everywhere the wind carries them. They are hardy and upright. Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the military, planted swiftly and surely. They're ready to fly in the breezes that take them to new adventures, new lands and new friends.

Experts say that military children are well-rounded, culturally aware, tolerant, and extremely resilient. Military children have learned from an early age that home is where their hearts are, that a good friend can be found in every corner of the world and in every color, and that education doesn't only come from school. They live history. They learn that to survive means to adapt, that the door that closes one chapter of their life opens to a new and exciting adventure full of new friends and new experiences." ~ Anonymous



... and it all started coming together.

Simple, yet elegant. I wanted a dandelion showing the seeds as they begin to leave the 'puff ball.' I thought this would symbolize us as we leave our Military childhoods. Some leave, others remain behind for a while. Might even look upon it as a graduating senior class – scattering to the winds.

Then a Brat suggested using a 'dog tag' chain as the border! How cool is this? So, in the end, we came up with this, the BratPin! Simple, yet elegant. Visit **The BratPin Store** to purchase yours. www.bratpin.com

Thanks! Bob Holliker



"Who knew we were so damaged?"

Sesame Street creates App for Military Children

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash., March 27, 2014

The Big Moving Adventure app, a muppet app for brats, was developed for the Defense Department with the non-profit partnership of Sesame Workshop. The Big Moving Adventure app lets children create a Muppet friend to help them through the moving process. The average brat moves between six and nine times between kindergarten and high school, according to the Pentagon. "Moving can be stressful, and kids need to express feelings and say goodbye to people and things," said Dr. Kelly Blasko, psychologist at the National Center for Telehealth and Technology, and this new app can help them cope with leaving a familiar place for the unknown. "The muppet characters in this app help make the move a fun experience."

Children can use the app to help their Muppet friend make decisions on a variety of move-related issues, such as which toys to pack in a box and which to take along in their backpack. Children watch the Muppet say goodbye to their house, their military base and their classroom and playground friends. At the new house, children help their Muppet unpack, settle into the home and make new friends.

Military parents face unique challenges during a move, and the app helps their young children through the experience. A separate parents section contains additional move-related topics and tips.

While developed specifically for military families with children 3 to 5 years old, it is useful for all families with young children experiencing a move, officials said.

The mobile app is available for download from the App Store, Google Play and Amazon for Kindle Fire.



Jim Wright '72, Mr. Echeveste-Fac, Diana (Green) Kempton '72, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 and Irene (Jenkins) Hammond '83 welcome newly found Berlin Brat Irene to the Overseas Brats regional in Phoenix this past Feb 22nd.

Note received from John Taylor:

I teach at SHAPE and my wife lives in DFW and works for GermanDeli.com. The owner of the company, Inga Bowyer, gave me your July 2013 newsletter. You have an ad for GermanDeli.com and you have a picture of my brother, MAJ David G. Taylor Jr, right on top. He was KIA 10.22.06.

I just wanted to thank you for putting that in your newsletter. I'm a DoDDS brat (Heidelberg HS c/o 91) and so was my brother (HHS c/o '87). I loved seeing my brother's picture from Iraq in your newsletter, and I know my mom will, too. She's also a DoDDS teacher in Lakenheath.

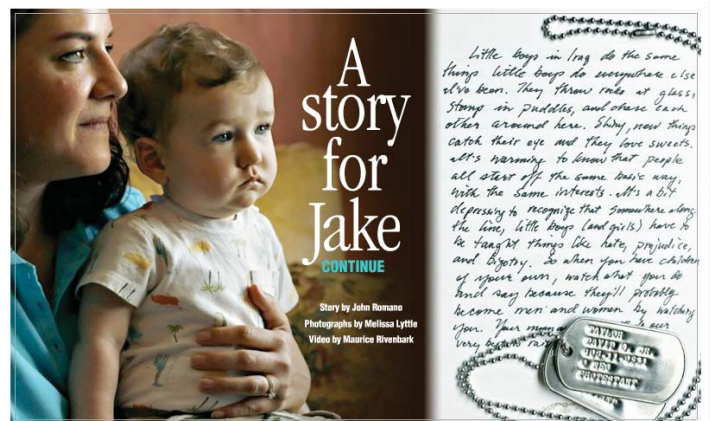
Thank you very much!
John



David's Picture as seen
on the German Deli website.
shown in the July 2013 Newsletter page 8

In Memory of Heroes:
(as found on the German Deli website)

Army Major David G. Taylor Jr.
Army 1st Sgt Jeffrey R. McKinney
Army Lieutenant Colonel Kip Taylor



Link to "A story for Jake"
on the German Deli ad - In Memory of Heroes: Army Major David G. Taylor Jr.

http://www.sptimes.com/2007/webspecials07/special_reports/thresher/



Update: "Finding the 1960 Berlin All Star Little League Team"

You may remember in our October 2013 Newsletter we featured this Team, the first team from Europe to attend the World Series, along with Pat Williams '65 quest to find all 14 of his teammates.
(remember they were just 11 and 12 yrs old at the time)

At that writing, Pat had found seven.

Impressively, he has now found 12!!! (one is deceased)

Kudos Pat!!!

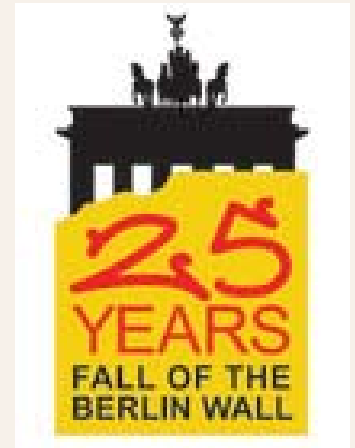
Pat is now planning a Reunion for them - **August 22-24th** at none other than the home of the Little League World Series - **Williamsport, PA!**

We can't wait for a follow up article and lots of pictures from this Reunion!

Pat's Reunion will coincide with - the Little League Baseball® World Series (South Williamsport, Pa.) from August 14 to 24, 2014.
the Little League's 75th Anniversary Celebration!



Brat Makes a Stop at Our Wall!



Carl Fenstermacher '73, while on a business trip to Wichita, KS, decided to stop in at the Museum of World Treasures (MOTW) and check out our Wall!

He announced himself as a Berlin Brat, and ended up with a personal tour from Mike Noller, President.

How cool is that?!

BERLIN: A NEW OBSERVATION

by: Peter Stein '84

In the summer of 1975, when I was nearly 13, my family decided to drive across the United States and show us 3 children what a fantastic, diverse country we were supposedly residents of. We wouldn't have known it. My brother and I were born in Frankfurt, and although my little sister was born in Northern Virginia, for the only (short) time I ever lived in the U.S. before college, we soon moved to Bangkok, and her first language was Thai. In fact, she spoke Thai, and no English. Imagine that household!

But back to 1975, and driving across the United States... we had just spent the past three years in Hong Kong, and my parents PROMISED us we were finally going "back home" to live, where they had American television, and American candy, and people who looked more like us, and even spoke our language without a funny accent! We bought an Olds Vista Cruiser in Anaheim, CA, and did our best National Lampoon's Vacation impersonation, even though we made that trip 8 years before the movie came out. We drove through Death Valley, over The Hoover Dam, through the Grand Canyon, and were on our way north to Yellowstone, when my parents announced the fantastic news that we were going to be living in....Berlin. As fate would have it, it was one of the most defining moments of my life. It happened in Idaho Falls, Idaho. I will never forget it!

Talk about the wind being let out of my sail. I had spent 3 years in Frankfurt, 1 in Berlin, 2 in Taipei, 3 in Bangkok, and 3 in Hong Kong (want to guess which three-letter agency my dad worked for?), and was tired of eating Reese's that had been on a hot ship for the past 6 months, and were that cake consistency they get when they are dried out. Although I have never been a big candy fan, it's what I remember most of why I was crushed that we were going to delay our return to America by at least another 3 years.

Fast forward to 2014, and to my recollection of one of the world's greatest cities. How lucky we were! We not only lived in a hotbed of activity, we had the best accommodations, the most modern facilities in the military community, not to mention our own little community, something I hadn't been part of in most

of my previous cities, as "living on the economy" was all there was. But Berlin was different (I didn't remember having lived there as an infant.), in that I was with a group of people who all started out wanting to not be there, and most of whose stances changed over time. These were such impressionable years. My family stayed in Berlin until I graduated BAHS in 1980, and THEN returned to the United States (Thanks, Guys!). But by then, I left with tears in my eyes. Luckily for me, I had left behind my first real girlfriend, who lived in Heidelberg, which gave me the opportunity to return for the next few summers, and getting back to Berlin from there was a piece of cake. I managed to visit Berlin in 1981, and again in 1990, shortly after the fall of The Wall. And finally, in 2008, on a late honeymoon with my wife. Having grown up in Roanoke (VA), she hadn't ever been to Europe, let alone to Paris, OR Berlin! I wanted her to see that part of my past which so defined me. I have lived in Connecticut since returning from Berlin in 1980, and yet, after 34 years here, I still consider Berlin home. I wonder how many others share that sentiment. Berliner80 is both my Twitter ID and Facebook search name.

So, it was a huge surprise in early 2013, when my step-daughter, who was a junior at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, announced that she was considering going overseas for the first semester of her junior year. Her choices? Ireland, I think, or – get this – Berlin. Of course, being the replacement part-time male role model in her life since 8th grade, was she finally going to look to me for advice? I'd like to think it was my influence that she chose Berlin, though in all honesty, the odds were 50-50, and considering that getting to the rest of Europe from Ireland probably involved riding through the Irish countryside on a horse-pulled hay cart, Berlin seemed like the logical choice. And how lucky I was! I could strengthen a relationship with her by telling her all about my childhood. She would want to know all about Berlin, though "her" Berlin and "my" Berlin were very different cities. No Wall, it's now the capital again, downtown has turned into a REALLY huge city – and worst of all, no American community.

BERLIN: A NEW OBSERVATION

continued

How would I ever begin to explain what the city was like, and what an impression it had made on me?

As it turned out, it didn't matter. Lexi didn't want to hear anything about what I had experienced! No, she wanted to embrace it herself. She was going to study German culture and history at the Free (Freie) University, not far from our old haunts. I didn't know much about the Free University, other than those students were strange, and my brother used to throw eggs in their windows. But that was many years ago, and this program had 152 Americans in it, though only one other student from Lexi's school. This had to be a sign, as I became an Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 152 in Berlin, one of the best troops ever! So, armed with a laptop, some clothes, and money for food and travel excursions, Lexi set off in August to experience a brand new world. She didn't even have a cell phone, though there was Skype, and Facebook, and the ability to connect with friends and family that we never had, in 'the olden days.'

Lexi started a blog, which I found very interesting. Granted, she wasn't experiencing Berlin as a member of an American family, but this was probably to her advantage, as she had no choice but to completely immerse herself in German community, culture and cuisine. As she posted at the start of her blog, "Life begins AT THE END of your COMFORT ZONE." And I found her adventures very amusing. Almost every entry was about food! Although she can be a very careful eater at home, I was very proud that she experienced so many different European delights. More on that in a minute.

Lexi's first impressions of Berlin?

It's funny what a person notices. To wit:

- It smells like pizza. Just kidding, but the airport reeked of it so that will forever be my very first impression.
- German taxi drivers do have fun too. I know this because my taxi driver had oodles of fun changing lanes without signaling as mere molecules separated us

from large buses...while he was playing some tycoon game on his smartphone. Clicking away at his little city to collect his daily allowance of coins.

- Germglisch Radio. Many of the songs on the radio are our top radio hits in America as well. However, some of them have a German twist. In particular, Lady Gaga's new single Applause is partially in German.
- Doorknobs are American-proof. 14 euro for the taxi later, I click the hotel button three times as I know I'm hearing the buzz to open the door but can't seem to find a way to open it. Finally, after I'm about to feel like an idiot for the fourth time the owner comes down to let me in. After much concentration, I figure out how to use the ancient "lift" that I thought only existed within the confines of the Ministry of Magic in Harry Potter. I sign things, we reach many language barriers when she thinks I said, "my brother and sister live in Berlin" when I actually said, "spending the semester abroad in Berlin," but I get my keys and yet again go on my merry way. Probably five minutes were spent outside Room #18 attempting to figure out which of two keys worked and how they worked. Then, there's the showers and toilets that are actually separate from the rooms, therefore I have a separate key for them too. About three times as much time and effort was spent on that door-knob that I finally went downstairs for some assistance. The lady puts the key in and, of course, gets it on the first try. Which has brought me to the conclusion that German doorknobs are American-proof and that is not my fault.

Lexi eventually settled down, figured out how to use the "American-proof" doorknobs, and started looking around the city. Despite the fact that the students often traveled in groups, a common theme was that nobody had any idea where they were going, so they often journeyed to locations they might not have chosen, but were interesting, nonetheless. Starbucks was a favorite daily hangout, less for their expensive lattes and more for their Wi-Fi, which was fast enough to stream video, and was a welcome change from the living accommodations that had no internet at all.

Lexi was barely there two weeks when she asked for vacation suggestions. It wasn't that she didn't like Berlin, it was that as it was so close to other great countries, the plans were underway for a European Vacation! To make a long story short, she managed a week in Italy, and a week in France, during her four months in Berlin.

Her daily activities included cooking food (I have never witnessed her cooking at home. Baking, yes. cooking, no.), which came after shopping in the markets. And the references to a million different treats began:

Buying food. There is a heightened effort that must be put forth when buying food in a foreign country. Basically all I can do is read some product names but not the specifics of what is in it. This has led me to purchase a few mystery products, which have evidently not been too bad. Also, farmers markets clutter the city. Even the station where I change buses to go to school has a decent market in the plaza, which I checked it out and got some cheese, fruits, bread and hummus for 10 euro total.

Eating food. Somehow with added inconveniences in the buying and cooking food that I'm not used to, the "eating" part is almost a sacred experience. Other than what I cook at home, all I eat are various combinations of breads and cheeses. Though, mostly baguettes and brie. Sometime soon we're going to finally have a sit-down meal at a German restaurant hopefully! What else did she eat? Küchun und Kaffee, Döner, pretzels, Shoko Müsli, the best french fries ever (oh, that was in Italy, sorry!), and loads and loads of great German chocolate.

Lexi's trip wasn't all about food. When I asked her if the European food was her greatest discovery, she explained that the food was only symbolic of the culture. Hmmm. I didn't receive any segue to follow that statement, but I know there's a hidden meaning somewhere. She did say, when pressed, that she found Europe "more open" than here in the United States, in that they were more tolerant of others, with the exception of the German grumbling about all of the post-Wall immigrants.

I was very interested to see if Berlin affected Lexi the same way it did me. And the answer was yes – and no. Yes, with the way a child learns that there is a great big world out there. Maybe especially more to her, since I had grown up overseas, and this was her first real foreign excursion. And, she was experiencing it at an older age. But no, not in the way WE experienced Berlin. No little America in Dahlem/Zehlendorf, no DODDSEUR high school that was about as American as any high school at home, and no experience of losing 1/3 of your friends every couple of years, or whatever the statistic was.

Still, I will secretly admit that I was thrilled to have Lexi see where I grew up. And I will hope for the day when, maybe years down the line, she starts to question some of my Berlin experiences, being able to better relate to them. Considering that much of her blog referenced food, she never made it to the 6th floor of KaDeWe, which has the most impressive collection of meats and cheeses I have ever seen in my life. I think she would have been overwhelmed.

We picked up Lexi in December in New York, and though she was tired from a long trip, she excitedly shared with us many of her experiences on the two-hour car ride home. We heard all about what was not on her blog, and it was clear to me that Berlin made quite an impression on her. And although she was not able to partake in MY Berlin, as we'll be there in November for the 25th Anniversary of the Fall of The Wall, I'll get to experience hers. And it will give us all a new layer of memories to cherish.



Lexi's blog:

<http://abschulman.wordpress.com/>



Peter Stein 1980



Lexi did make one trip that was particularly special to me. She visited my old haunt – our house, Ripleystraße 8, in Dahlem, around Dreipfuhl, aka our Duck Pond. She managed to meet the current owner, an architect, who had some interesting information to share.

I wrote them, and have plans to meet with them in November. They commented on the Birch trees in their front yard, and I told them that we planted those two trees. My dad asked the Army for a couple of trees, and for something that grows quickly, and they delivered those two to us.

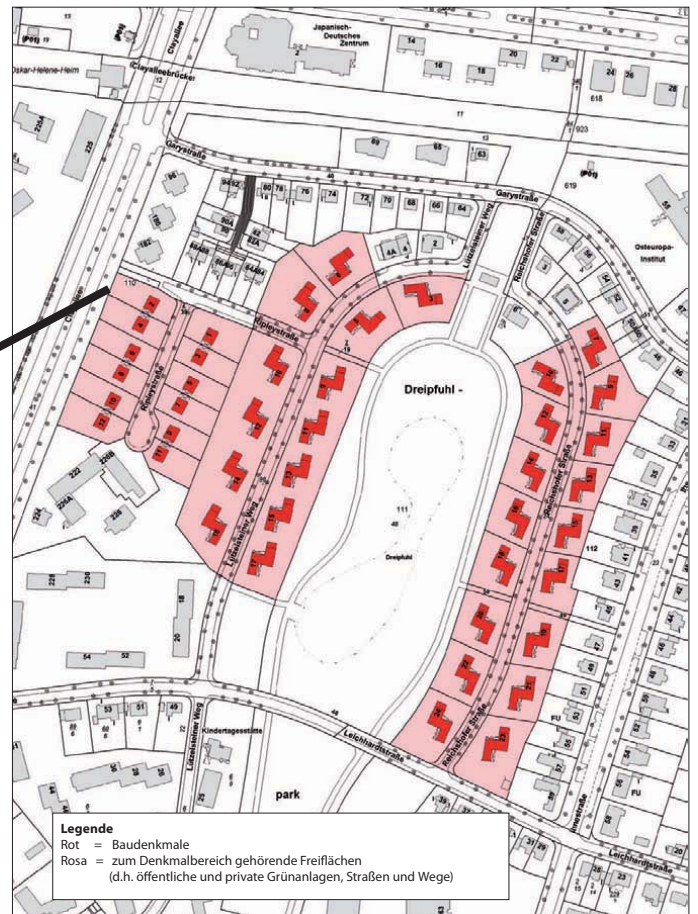
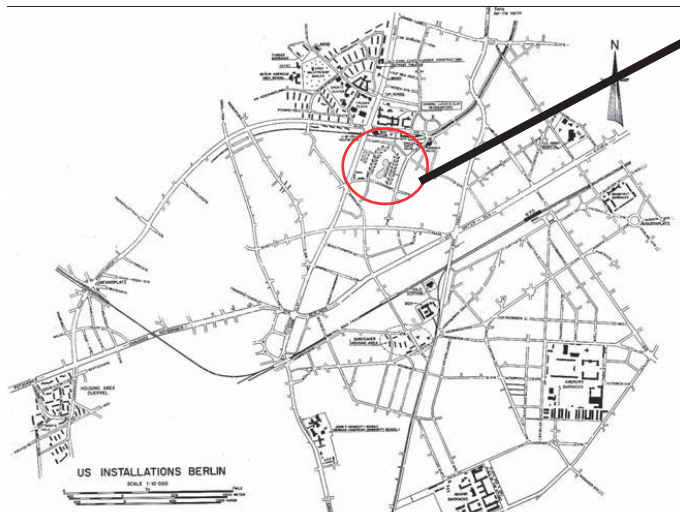
We had to water them every day.



Duplex-Häuser in der Ripleystraße

These houses are tightly governed now, and are regarded as historical landmarks (they are now nearly 60 years old, having been built in the 1950's) by the German government. As such, they have to remain certain colors, any external additions are forbidden, and in fact, there is a huge prospectus on our area, which can be found online at:

http://www.berlin.de/imperia/md/content/basteg-litzzehlendorf/abteilungen/bau/stadtplanung/denkmalchutz/dreipfuhsiedlung_20071120_klein.pdf_7a7zbc.pdf?start&ts=1232384653&file=dreipfuhsiedlung_20071120_klein.pdf_7a7zbc.pdf



In 1947 and '48 the Berlin Yearbook was a paperback. From '49 to '60 with all the schools opening after the war we went to a hardcover but it was multi-school. With the 1961 Yearbook we broke out from the multi and produced our own! Dean Boyd '62 and Blair Good '62 both Juniors at the time wrote the Introduction.(...and both are active Members of the Berlin Brats today!)

Frau Pietsch's Art Classes contributed to the Inside Front and Back Cover Art.

INTRODUCTION

To you who have just turned the first page of Erinnerungen 1961:

You are about to read and look at the pictures which represent a year in the Berlin American High School.

The staff of the 1961 Yearbook set itself the task of compiling a book that somehow shows the spirit of true democracy in an American High School one-hundred miles behind the "Iron Curtain."

This year, for the first time, we have attempted to produce our own school yearbook. We hope that we have succeeded, and that you, are pleased with the result.

To our friends we hope to give a few glimpses of our school life in Europe. We are sure that this book will help you remember all the happenings which made this year one of the best in our lives.

Dean Boyd

Blair Good

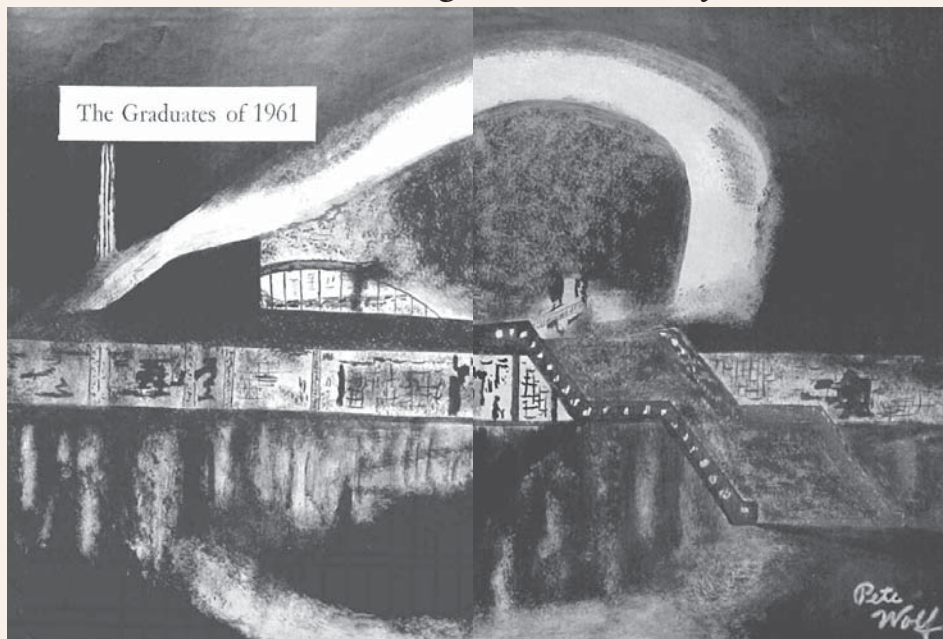


DEAN BOYD



RAYMOND
BLAIR GOOD, JR.

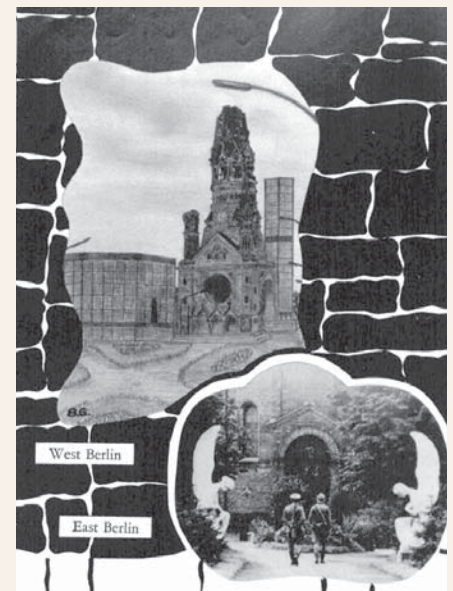
Artwork Introducing the Graduates of 1961



Congresshalle (a/k/a the Pregnant Oyster) by Peter Wolf '62

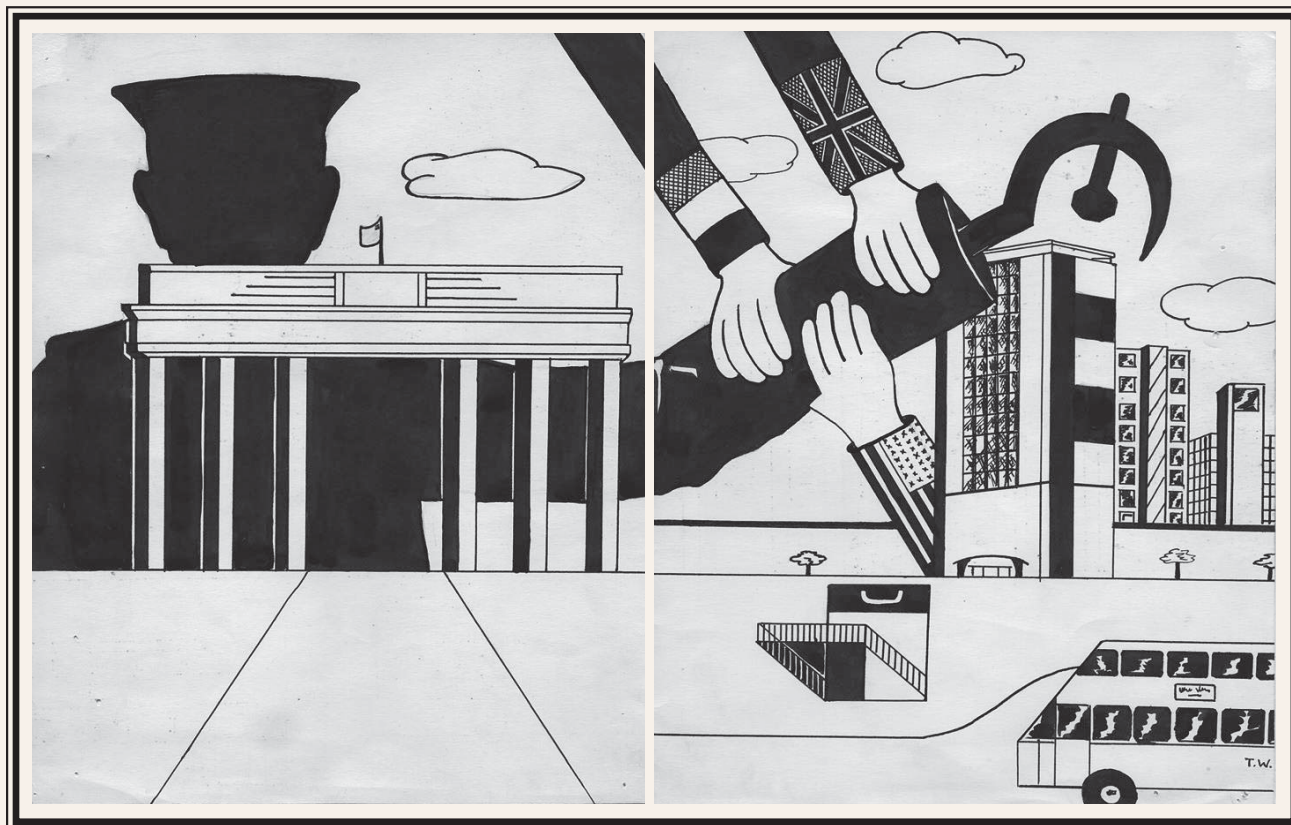


1961 - The Yearbook staff and Frau Pietsch find the choosing of the inside cover page for Berlin's Yearbook a difficult task.



Shown Above:
Blair Good '62 drew the art of the Gedachtniskirche which was featured on the page introducing his Graduating Class in the 1962 Yearbook.

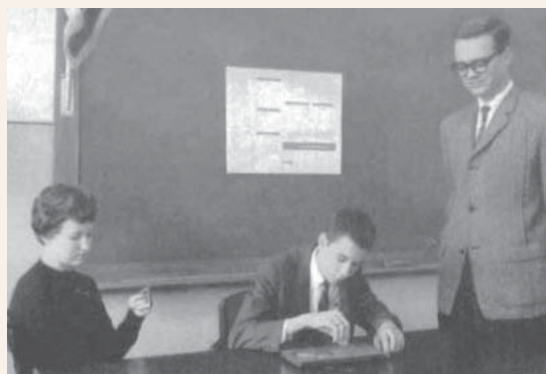
ALTERNATIVE ARTWORK



Above are the drawings that Toby West '61 posted on the 60's Facebook page recently. These were alternative drawings that he did for the inside front cover pages of the 1961 year book. He added this note to his post:

"My inside cover for 1961 yearbook. Frau Pietsch thought it was too political, so she picked the art of the "Oyster" (Congresshalle) instead. I was more of an illustrator, though occasionally used paint, mostly on larger stuff."

TOBY WEST '61



Industrious Senior Toby West tries his hand at a Finger Dexterity test, under the watchful eyes of fellow Senior Carolyn Knott and Counselor Mr. Jordheim.

P.S. I wish dearly for peace in the life of my old friend Carolyn Knott who is pictured with me above.



Frau Pietsch's ambitious art class supplies striking posters for all occasions.

Berlin 1961

The might of the Soviet Union was palpable in the surrounded enclave that was West Berlin, at least to those responsible for its survival. While adults scurried about on important missions, my father was a covert operative for the CIA, my friends and I thought of it as more of an adventure. It mattered little to us at the time that our tiny Tank Command was outnumbered 100 to 1. We still used the old cemetery close to it as a make out rendezvous.

But the reality was different for those German teachers at Berlin American High School who had relatives and friends still in the Russian sector. The Stazi was actively keeping track of those who had family that worked in the West.

Informants were everywhere, including in West Berlin.

“The Ministry for State Security (German: *Ministerium für Staatssicherheit*, MfS), commonly known as the **Stasi**, literally State Security), was the official state [security service](#) of the [German Democratic Republic](#) or GDR, colloquially known as East Germany. It has been described as one of the most effective and repressive [intelligence](#) and [secret police](#) agencies to ever have existed. The Stasi was headquartered in [East Berlin](#), with an extensive complex in [Berlin-Lichtenberg](#) and several smaller facilities throughout the city. The Stasi motto was "[Schild und Schwert der Partei](#)" ([Shield and Sword](#) of the Party), that is the ruling [Socialist Unity Party of Germany](#) (SED).


One of its main tasks was spying on the population, mainly through a vast network of citizens turned informants, and fighting any opposition by overt and covert measures including hidden psychological destruction of dissidents.”¹

Such was the situation for one of my favorite teachers, Frau Pietsch. Whatever artistic ability I have shown over the years was brought to life in her art classes. She was always smiling and had a positive outlook on life as far as her students were concerned, but she also knew the reality of life in the East.

I can never be 100% positive, but I believe that was one of the reasons my artwork for the 1961 yearbook was shown only in a very small picture of the art class in session. It was too political for the situation that many German citizens, who worked in the West, had to face with regard to what was possible in the East.

And besides, the artwork chosen was just fine.

Bill “Toby” West ‘61



**Stasimuseum Berlin -
Gedenkstätte Normannenstraße**
Ruschestraße 103, Haus 22
D-10365 Berlin, Germany

Phone 030 / 553 68 54
Fax 030 / 553 68 53
eMail info@stasimuseum.de
Internet www.stasimuseum.de

Opening hours
Monday - Friday 11 am - 6 pm
Saturday, Sunday, holidays 2 pm - 6 pm


Ticket prices
Adults 5,00 €
Reduced 4,00 €
Students 3,00 €
Reduced fees for groups of at least 10 people

Guided tours by appointment!


How to get here
U5 to Magdalenenstrasse station
Time of travel from Alexanderplatz: about 15 min




STASI MUSEUM



Building 1 of the Ministry of State Security



Building 22 - „generals“ hq



T931759

Stasimuseum - Forschungs- und Gedenkstätte Normannenstraße



© Stasi-Museum

The headquarters of the former STASI, the infamous GDR Ministry for State Security, were located in this very building which today houses Berlin's STASI Museum. This is a truly impressive rewind into one of the most chilling institutions of the Cold War. The building was occupied by demonstrators on January 15, 1990 and a citizen's committee initiated the disbanding of the former STASI, gradually transforming this building into a memorial, museum and archive for posterity.

The actual Stasi files are administered by a Federal capital Commissioner for Stasi files and kept in a central archive in Berlin. About 160 kilometres of Stasi documents including files, dossiers, index-cards and audio tapes were left behind by the Stasi. They contain information on about 6 million people, although the exact number of people under surveillance is unknown.

<http://www.stasimuseum.de>

*(...if attending the Reunion this fall,
pay a visit to this Museum!)*



Did you know?
that the Stasi had a file on
1 out of 12 East Berliners?
No wonder they were so paranoid.

Visitors can time travel back in time into Erich Mielke's – the last GDR minister for State Security – own offices as they have been preserved in their original state. From here, Mielke headed the Stasi for over 30 years. The museum is full of old-time Stasi artifacts including its infamous surveillance devices hidden in most extraordinary places. The numerous exhibits are a journey into the repressive stranglehold of the police state, the activities of the State Security and aspects of the GDR political system as well as resistance and opposition movements.

Memorabilia highlights such as a prisoner's transport van, hidden infra-red cameras for night photography and containers to disguise weapons transport.

An English language booklet is available for background information and guided tours.

How To Experience Berlin Without Breaking Your Wallet

Tips from the German Embassy in the United States

Berlin was once described as a city that is “Poor, but sexy.” Today, there is a little more cash flow in and out, but the savvy visitor can still get by on bare minimum every day, while still being able to see things that make Berlin so unique. *November 2013*

I know, right? Now tell your friends!

1. Two Words: Street Food

Whether it be Döner, Turkish Pizza, Currywurst, Ice Cream, or a giant cone of french fries, Berlin is famously street food friendly. Here are some tips for great local grub:

Mustafa's Gemüse Kebap is worth the wait, we swear! The line is long, but the Döner are packed full of meat and veggies. Plus, how can you go wrong with MEAT on a STICK? Prices are cheap too, around €3. After lunch, check out the surrounding shops in Kreuzberg!
Metro Station: Mehringdamm

The Pizza Dach is located on Simon-Dach-Straße, which is a well known nightlife hot-spot. For under €3, get some pizza and or plate of pasta in between bars. Like many other take-away joints in Berlin, tables are set up out front for casual diners. Definitely worth a visit!
Metro station: Frankfurter Tor

Wurst drowned in curry sauce, french fries smothered in mayonnaise, Currywurst is a Berlin staple, and Curry 36 is a Berlin institution. If you have any Berlin street food, make this your number 1 stop.
Metro Station: Zoologische Garten

2. Visit Local Monuments: They're EVERYWHERE

Monuments crop up in every capital city, but in Berlin they are especially prominent. From Stolpersteine to the East Side Gallery, Monuments to Germany's past are frequented by millions every year. Here are a few of our favorites:

Peter Eisenman designed the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, which was opened in 2005. It consists of 2,711 concrete pillars across approximately 19,000 square meters. Spend a few minutes wandering through the monument and the symbolism will become more and more clear. The site is directly behind the US Embassy in Berlin Mitte, next to the Brandenburg Gate.
Metro Station: Brandenburger Tor

Look down along every street in Berlin, Stolpersteine have been embedded into the regular walkways. These gold “stumbling blocks” are engraved with the names of victims of the Nazi regime. The idea for these monuments came from artist Gunter Demnig. They can now be found across Europe, but are mainly concentrated in Berlin.

3. Explore the Art Scene: Street Meets Classic

Berlin is home to some of the most well known paintings and sculptures in modern art, and not all of them are indoors. The vivid art scene in Berlin ranges from galleries and exhibitions in Neukölln and Oranienburger Str. to the breathtaking street art along the East Side Gallery. Get some culture by checking out some of the best - and cheapest - art scenes in Berlin:

The East Side Gallery is the longest remaining stretch of the Berlin Wall. You may have seen pieces of it at your local museum, but seeing this 1.3km monument will give you a real idea of life in Berlin during the Cold War. Now, the Wall is decorated with decades-worth of street art, tagging, and murals. Walk along the river and take in each piece, we promise you won't be disappointed.
Metro Station: Warschauer Str.

Oranienburger Str is home to a great bar scene in Berlin, but the side streets and alleyways are more well known for their small art galleries. Dress up on a Friday or Saturday evening and wander through the area. Galleries are open late, and many times will offer wine and cheese to the casual guest. It's a great - and free! - way to explore Berlin's art scene. Some free galleries are also open during the day. We recommend C/O Gallery which is in an old post office building.
Metro Station: Oranienburger Tor

4. Not All Museums Are Crazy Expensive

We get it, sometimes you really would like to see the Mona Lisa, but can't hack the €20 entrance fee. Berlin certainly has a lot to offer in the museum category, but some are a little pricey. Here are a few that aren't: That's right, the **RAMONES MUSEUM!** Admission is a paltry €3.50, and the experience is well worth it. This is the first and ONLY Ramones museum, so enjoy it while you can! (*Douglas Colvin, aka Dee Dee Ramone, was Class of '70 from BAHS. He spent 15 years in Berlinbut we're only showing him in the 8th grade at the high school...(per yearbooks)so maybe he did elementary school (1st thru 7th) at TAR then 8th grade at the new high school.*) The Ramones, a punk rock group, were admitted to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002. See the article in our April 2009 Newsletter pgs 4-5 @ <http://www.berlinbrats.org/newsletter/09Apr.pdf>

S-Bahn Station: Oranienburger Str.

The Topography of Terror museum is unique for many reasons, but first and foremost, it is partially outdoors. The site is built at the headquarters of the former SS and Gestapo. Take a walk down at the basement level and learn more about the terror under both regimes, with one reminder standing in front of you: the Berlin Wall. The museum is completely free.
Metro Station: Kochstr/ Checkpoint Charlie

At €6, the DDR Museum is a little pricey for our standards, but it is definitely worth the visit. The old spy gear and Soviet ingenuity is at once hilarious and terrifying. This museum is a great glimpse into the not-so-distant past.
S-Bahn Station: Berlin Hackesher Markt

5. Final Tips for the Budget Traveler

Finally, we know that going to a new city can be challenging, so here are a few tips to keep from falling into common traps:

Never pay full price if it can be cheaper. The Berlinische Galerie has a reduced rate on the first Monday of the month and most museums on Museum Island are free on Thursdays starting 4 hours before closing.

Also, Student IDs are worth their weight in gold when visiting Berlin.

Check out an opera or a play for a reduced rate as a student!

All of this, for €8 a day or €36 a week. Please, don't buy individual tickets when such a deal exists!

Also, the Berlin Transit Authority also offers ferries for as little as €2, which is a GREAT way to see the city.

The Roentgens' Berlin Secretary Cabinet



One of the finest achievements of European furniture making, this cabinet is the most important product from Abraham (1711-1793) and David Roentgen's (1743--1807) workshop. A writing cabinet crowned with a chiming clock, it features finely designed marquetry panels and elaborate mechanisms that allow for doors and drawers to be opened automatically at the touch of a button. Owned by King Frederick William II, the Berlin cabinet



is uniquely remarkable for its ornate decoration, mechanical complexity, and sheer size.



This cabinet is from the Kunstgewerbemuseum, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.

The Berlin secretary cabinet represents possibly not only the greatest achievement of the Roentgen workshop, but is also arguably the most expensive piece of furniture ever made.

Discover the hidden features and intricate interior of this cabinet.

View this 2 minute video - it's worth your time!

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/MKikHxKeodA?rel=0>

Footage courtesy of VideoART GmbH and Kunstgewerbemuseum, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.

While in Berlin the Secretary may be worth checking out.

3 – Four Letter Words Define Brats

Three - four letter words have special resonance with Brats because they speak to the core of who we are:

from, home and move.

From - defines us.

Home - is more than a location; it's those people in whom we find a place of acceptance.

and **Move** - means the next challenge/opportunity in our lives awaits us.

by: Joe Condrill, Overseas Brat President

As we head back to Berlin for the Reunion:

German Reunification: Words You May Need to Know

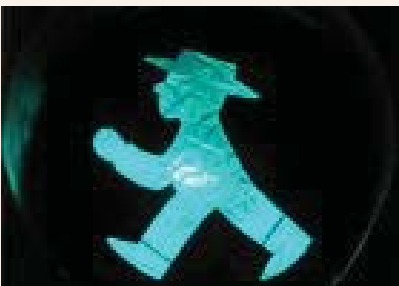


Mauerspecht

After the East German border was opened, countless people chipped away at the Berlin Wall with pickaxes and sledgehammers. These people were called "Mauerspechte" (wall woodpeckers).

Ossi / Wessi

When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, generalized nicknames arose to distinguish people who lived on either side of the border. Those in the west were informally referred to as Wessis and those in the east were called Ossis.



Ostalgie

Despite the fall of the wall and modern Germany's reunification, some Germans still exhibit Ostalgie - a deep yearning for the East German way of life.

Wendehals

After the fall of the wall, the word Wendehals was used to describe East Germans whose political convictions did a 180-degree turn during reunification.



From the Berlin Observer Archives - Feb 4, 1983

'A front line of freedom'

Vice President Bush visits Berlin

Vice President Bush spoke to the American community at the Sports Center gym, after his tour of the city and viewing the Wall in the British sector of Berlin. Before he gave his speech, Mark Millen '83, the Berlin American High School Student Council president presented Vice President Bush with a Berlin sweater while Mrs. Bush holds the Bear presented to her by Laura J. Morgan' 83 high school senior class president.

He said that our community in Berlin was really on the front line of freedom.

"For the rest of your lives, it seems to me, wherever your adventures take you, Berlin is going to be a part of you," Bush added. "I think because of that, you, more than most Americans, will know, how precious freedom really is and what it costs."



***Mark Millen '83 Presents Vice President Bush
with a sweater from BAHS***

(Mark is still an active member of the Berlin Brats!)

'Amazing things we had access to and were able to do in Berlin!'

We gave him a BAHS sweater
and Barbara - a Berlin Bear.

He gave us a VP Pen...

Mark Millen '83

Mrs. Bush holds the Bear presented to her by Laura J. Morgan
high school senior class president.

This photo taken by Berlin Observer staff member Sue Sweeney.



Left to Right: German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Mrs. Kohl, Mrs. Bush, VP Bush, Berlin's Governing Mayor Richard von Weizsacker and his wife.



Just Learned:***Mike Heiser '78....was one of the 19 killed at the Khobar Towers back on June 25th, 1996.***

A book: "The Story of a Lifetime" is dedicated to the memory of Master Sgt. Michael G. Heiser and the 18 other airman who lost their lives in the Khobar Towers Bombing.



Our new Class Contact for '73, Tammy (Iverson) Peoples made the discovery while searching for fellow BAHS Classmates. She was able to contact Mike's Mom, inviting her to join us at the Reunion but due to age and health issues she will not be able to attend.

Mike was a new member of the 71st Rescue Squadron assigned to Operation SOUTHERN WATCH in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, in support of the coalition air operation over Iraq.

On June 25, 1996, just a few weeks after his arrival in Dhahran, a terrorist truck bomb exploded outside the northern perimeter of Khobar Towers, the facility housing U.S. and allied forces of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. Mike was replacing Sergeant Dwayne Berry who was getting ready to return stateside....he was looking forward to calling home soon and saying, 'Hi Dad, this is First Sgt Mike.' Gary, Mike's father had served for almost 10 years in the capacity of First Sgt of Headquarters Company, 509th RR Group Viet Nam and Field Station Berlin, Germany and Fort Monmouth, NJ.

There are several memorial sites to honor Michael listed below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khobar_Towers_bombing

<http://arlingtoncemetery.net/khobar.htm>

http://capitolwords.org/date/1997/05/23/E1053_tribute-to-m-sgt-michael-g-heiser/

Below are some words about his life from his parents at his tribute website.



Master Sgt. Michael G. Heiser

In his short life, Mike saw and did more than most people do in a very full lifetime.

He traveled extensively, and was proud to be involved in many "firsts".

Mike accompanied the then Chancellor Kohl to Berlin on 9 Nov. 1989, when the Wall came down.

Mike was on the first US plane escorted and allowed to land in free Russia.

In 1993 at Kisling NCO Academy he was the recipient of the Academic Achievement Award and the Distinguished Graduate award. In 1995 Mike was selected as the Aircrew Member of the Year in Europe. His accomplishments seem endless and we are proud.

He was an honor student in schools and one of the most decorated enlisted men in the Air Force.

Mike stayed in and visited some of the finest palaces, hotels, and countries. He met with and escorted most known dignitaries, and also met the complete opposite, where he visited countries with names we never heard of or cannot pronounce, saw filth and poverty and sickness that will never be erased, saw war torn people and places ***but all Mike ever wanted to do was help to keep America free!***

AFN Berlin Manager Mark White Remembered

The AFN Berlin Lunch Bunch



Every three weeks or so Mark White, Rik De Lisle, Peter Dolle, Stan Green and Bill Gaylord (all AFNers residing in Berlin) would get together for lunch at the Europa to look back at the good old days of AFN Berlin and to catch up with what's going on now.

Check out this video on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbqtoytZM3Q>



AFN Berlin

AFN Berlin the US-American military broadcast station was located at Podbielskiallee 23 in Berlin-Dahlem.

It started broadcasting at noon on August 4, 1945, with the Rhapsody in Blue from George Gershwin. During the Berlin Blockade AFN Berlin started broadcasting

around the clock. After the building of the Berlin Wall AFN Berlin then stayed on the air 24 hours until July 1994.

On July 15, 1994, AFN Berlin broadcast a 3-hour special broadcast on both radio frequencies, which was transmitted live into 54 countries. Afterwards, seconds before 2pm, AFN Berlin ceased transmitting after playing our National Anthem.

One of the great voices of radio history has been silenced. After spending a wonderful Christmas day with his family, Mark White went to bed and passed away in his sleep 12/29/2013. He would have been 89 on the 2nd of January. Mark was the manager of AFN Berlin from the 1950s until 1988. He left behind a great legacy and many friends. (David Glen Andersen facebook feed)



Mark White airchecks

Mark White was with AFN Berlin from the 1950's until 1988

Did you know?

April is the month of the Military child

In 1986, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger designated April as the Month of the Military Child. Every year since, we pause to honor and appreciate the sacrifices and contributions the youngest members of our military community make in support of their military parents.

On This Day April 5, 1986

B || B || C

1986: Berlin La Belle disco bombed

A bomb has exploded in a crowded discotheque in Berlin, Germany, killing two and injuring at least 120, including more than 40 Americans.

American authorities in Berlin said the two dead were an American soldier and a Turkish woman of 28. The disco is a favourite with American servicemen, and many of those injured were soldiers.

The bomb went off at 0150 local time (2350 GMT) when La Belle disco was packed with nearly 500 people.

The 7,000 American servicemen stationed in West Berlin in April 1986 had been under high security alert since a US naval strike against Libya in the Gulf of Sirte in March.

Even though the US military installations had been under heavy guard, there were no security measures for nightspots frequented by off-duty servicemen.

***.... the post was on lock down.
All the buses were followed by
armored trucks to and from
school. Mandatory curfew for
ALL US citizens, including
military personnel, civilians
and dependents.***

***The Outpost was closed,
they were afraid they would
target large gatherings..***

Yoshika Lowe '83

A second US soldier died shortly after the blast, bringing the number of dead to three. More than 200 were found to have been injured. Ten days later, the US government retaliated by bombing Libya. At least 60 people, including the adopted daughter of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, died.

Libya's response was the bombing of a Pan-Am passenger jet over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988, killing 270 people.

In 1996, three men and a woman were convicted of planning La Belle disco bombing.

The three men all worked for the Libyan embassy in East Berlin.

The woman, the German wife of one of the embassy workers, was convicted of murder after it was found she had planted the bomb.

In September 2004, in a series of moves aimed at ending Libya's pariah status, Colonel Gaddafi agreed to pay \$35m to 150 non-US victims of the bomb.

However, Libya has said it will not pay for US victims until Washington pays compensation for the lives and property lost in the subsequent US air strikes on Libya.



Stasi files reveal embassy link

www.dw.de/berlins-la-belle-nightclub-bombing

Stasi files led to a breakthrough. More than four years after the attack, when the 1990 reunification of Germany led to the opening up of the East German Secret Service archives, German prosecutors finally had a name: Musbah Abdulghasem Eter. According to the Stasi files, Eter had worked at the Libyan embassy in East Berlin and the files listed him as an agent and the main contact of the Libyan secret service at the embassy.

Not only did the files reveal Eter's possible role in the bombing, they implicated the Libyan embassy as the main planning hub for the attack. The investigation into Eter's role in the attack took six more years before he and four other suspects were arrested in Lebanon, Italy, Greece and Berlin. After complications arising from extradition orders and conflicting partial confessions, the four accused were finally put on trial in Berlin a year later.

GET YOUR OWN "BERLIN WALL" CASE COVER!!!!

For all you iphone carriers out there – take a look at this:



CoolStyleClothing

Style Your Life..... Style Your Mobile Phone



Mobile Phone Case



Men T-shirt



Hawaiian shirt



<http://www.coolstyleclothing.com/s0156-berlin-wall-case-cover-for-iphone-5c/>



8th Grade

Sonia Hardeman



12th Grade

Angelo Allen



9th Grade

Beatrice Seyen

More student artwork from the 1970 School Calendar: April, May & June featured here



Polar Bear Cubs Make First Public Appearance at Munich Zoo

The 14-week-old polar bear cubs born in Munich's zoo made their first public appearance on March 19, turning them into overnight celebrities as photos of the twins circulated quickly through the Internet.

.....(remember Berlin's Knut?...and what a sensation he was!)

Upcoming Events:

August 10, 2014
Regional Get-together
Colorado Springs, CO
Hosted by Jeri '72

Nov 2014
November 2014 WurstFest
New Braunfels, Texas
The WurstFest
Hosted by Roo '73.

Next Reunion

Nov 8-11, 2014

BERLIN
2014

Contact Information:

Berlin Brats Alumni Association

41910 N. Crooked Stick Road
Anthem, AZ 85086
623•764•1105 tele

BerlinBrats@gmail.com

Director: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72

www.berlinbrats.org

Find us on Facebook:

"Berlin Brats Alumni Association"
(the official Fan Page site)

"Berlin American High School (BAHS)"
(an Open Group chat page)

WebBrat: Cate Speer '85
WebBrat@BerlinBrats.org

Newsletter Brat:
Toni (Yarbrough) Combs '71
traecombs@gmail.com

Early 60's Site

By invitation only
Contact: Jim Branson '64
jbranson01@hotmail.com
for an invite

American Overseas School Historical Society

Contact: Tina Calo, President
email: tcalo@aoshs.org
Website: www.aoshs.org

Overseas Brats

Joe Condrill, President
Email: joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.overseasbrats.com



SHARE YOUR STORIES

Be part of the
Berlin Brats Book Project
www.bratsoverseas.com

bratsoverseas@yahoo.com

Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 & Trisha Lindsey '82