



# BERLIN BRATS NEWSLETTER

JULY 1997

## Whats's Been Happening since the April Newsletter?

Well....alot of new classmates have been found - a large percentage coming from the 80's! Also another regional was held. This one a dinner in San Antonio, TX on July 18th. Hosted by Steve Brown '73 and Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72 it was an evening of fun and reminiscing. Check out the pictures and the article on the inside.

### Berlin Brats

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## Berlin Undergoes Major Renovations After Cold War.....

*(reprint from the San Antonio Express-News May 4th, 1997)*

It looks like an invasion of rainbow-hued, long-necked mechanical monsters, more than 20 giant construction cranes chomping away at mud and rock in an area about a mile long and the width of two football fields placed end to end.

During the Cold War years (1961-1989), this desolate strip of real estate was known as no man's land, a buffer between East and West Berlin at the Potsdamer Platz section of the Berlin Wall. By the late '70s, this particular section of the wall, with its vivid murals and an observation deck that permitted a look at what was on the other side, had become a major tourist attraction. Visitors from all over the world wanted to peek over the 12-foot-high barrier to see what life was like under a Communist regime.

In early 1997, there's little left of the Wall at Potsdamer

Platz - only a painted red line to show where it was. Bright yellow splotches mark the location where 70 would-be escapees fell. But tourists still come in search of the infamous wall. Construction equipment almost hides the entrance to the Checkpoint Charlie Museum and its exhibits of photographs and documents that show how things were. You have to go elsewhere to find scarce fragments of the real thing.

The current focus at Potsdamer Platz is on the future - the year 2000, when the federal government will complete its move from Bonn to Berlin.

Bright red, blue, mauve and yellow wood shipping containers, stacked like children's blocks, house offices for hard hat crews who work from pre-dawn to midnight in the rush to build sleek glass and chrome government-business complexes and deluxe hotels that will be appropriate lodging for world leaders in the 21st century. The Infobox Box - a bright red rectangular building on stilts visible from anywhere on the construction site - has three floors of galleries with detailed exhibits and computer graphics detailing the blueprints of the future. Potsdamer Platz is the busiest construction site in



Charlottenburg



The Gendarmenmart



The Platz

Europe, with all the attendant disruptions to urban life, from blocked streets to unannounced detours, incessant machine gun-like drilling in concrete to wooden sidewalks tunnels bypassing shop entrances. Building and renovation projects on Pariser Platz, the exclusive area surrounding the Brandenburg Gate, add to the confusion. Work is in progress on new quarters for the U.S. Embassy, just a few steps from the prestigious Hotel Adlon Kempinski, scheduled to open in June. All this, just along the line where the Wall once stood. Additional building sites in the Mitte district to the east and Tiergarten district to the west are why natives have dubbed the inner city "Cranesville."

(The Tiergarten is taking on a decimated look as its trees are sacrificed in the progress of building an underground passageway to connect new government offices - the government promises to plant new trees as soon as the tunnel is constructed).

The ongoing turmoil has brought a new set of East-West problems, especially for taxi drivers used to cruising the Kurfurstendamm (better known as the Ku'Damm) on the sophisticated West side of the city. Cabbies become frustrated when they try to deliver fares to the elegant new Four Seasons Hotel, one of several deluxe hotels opening in Berlin Mitte (what 10 years ago was downtown East Berlin).

Dr. Martin V. Ostrowski, a

Berlin specialist, says it's not considered politically correct to speak of "East Berlin" or "West Berlin" - he prefers to speak of the historical district or the business district - but the game's the same even if the names have changed. The people living in the greener, more open West side of the city have always been more affluent, better educated, more tolerant and somewhat arrogant, while those in the East have always been workingclass, less self-confident, molded by their substandard housing in decaying neighborhoods.

Now both sides are "more so" with young professionals from the business district moving into chic apartments close to Charlottenburg Palace or still farther west, to remodeled 19th century mansions in the Grunewald. At the same time, those living in the historic district, mostly workmen, go home to drab, utilitarian housing on dingy streets in Schonhauser and Friedrichshain. Avant-garde artists and techno-pop musicians are losing their squatters's rights in tenements along Oranienburger Strasse and Prenzlauer Berg as developers destroy the old to make room for the new. The economic-savvy West siders might be a little jealous that most of the exciting new building projects are in Berlin Mitte, but it's obvious there's more land to develop where flimsy GDR housing can be demolished quickly and labor is plentiful. The Mitte already had the most cultural attractions:

Museum Island, with its three world-class museums, including the Pergamon famed for its Altar of Athene and Zeus, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. The Gendarmenmarkt, among the most beautiful squares in Europe with its two restored cathedrals (one for the French, one for the Germans, both now museums) flanking the Schauspielhaus, home of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra.

**Still, the really big show in town right now is the blue collar brigades working round the clock to set the stage for 2000, when the world spotlight will return to Berlin.**



Brandenburg Gate

### CONTRIBUTOR(S)

We would like to take a minute and thank our contributor(s) for their contributions to our alumni association. This quarter a special thank you is rendered to Graham Beachum from the class of '65!!!  
**THANK YOU!!!**

## OVERSEAS BRATS ANNUAL GATHERING

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### THIS YEAR IN KENTUCKY!!!!

OSB's annual "Gathering" will be the weekend of October 13-16th in Covington, Kentucky. The Berlin Brats plan on making an all time attendance record. Call it a Berlin Brats mini-reunion within OSB's Gathering. Joe Condrill, the president of OSB tells us he's ready for US! We're excited because in addition to seeing each other again - we're told that parts of Covington resemble Germany. They even have a "Main Strasse". Being good Berliners our noses will lead us to the nearest restaurant offering brat or currywurst...or weiner schnitzel for that matter!

If you're interested in joining us and need more information or the registration package please contact "us" - the Berlin Brats or Overseas Brats directly at:

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

(For those of you who are not familiar with Overseas Brats, OSB holds a "Gathering" every year -- ALL SCHOOLS/ALL YEARS You will find most schools represented as many alumni

attended more than one high school. In addition to the "party atmosphere", OSB also gives seminars (for those interested) in how to start an alumni association, how to find classmates, resources available, etc. **Operation Footlocker** (which is exactly that) will be in attendance. The footlocker is full of memorabilia that has been donated by alumni worldwide and travels from reunion to reunion, gathering to gathering and events to events. Take it from me, there are some unique treasures in this collection. Also in attendance will be Dr. Thomas Drysdale, President of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society. He will give a talk on the origins of AOSHS, where we are and where we hope to be by the year 2000 on the building of a "Brat Historical Park/Museum."



-----classified ad-----  
**Wanted:** Snorer seeking roommate for Overseas Brats Gathering in Covington, KY, Oct. 97. Contact: Jim Wright ('72) at (602)842-2599.

## << quicknotes >>

Check out the following web sites on our classmates:

**John Freeman:**  
<http://www.jou.ufl.edu/people/faculty/jfreeman/freeman.htm>

**Ron Rathnow:**  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~bpgraphics/bpgpage.htm>  
Check out the "Friends at Play" page. There are pictures of Ron doing extreme whitewater kayaking!!!

**John Tuite:**  
<http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/3328/john.htm>

Also worth checking out is the new site for "**Military Living Magazine**" at:  
<http://www.militaryliving.com> then click on "clearing house for military brats" and register yourself on the Brat directory.

If you attended JFK check out their site at:  
<http://members.aol.com/andyhoppe/jfk.htm>  
**ON ANOTHER NOTE:** OSB plans to do a special feature in their December magazine on those who joined the military, then died while in service. If you know of someone please submit their names, years graduated, what service, rank, and date of death. The deadline is October 31st.

**AMERICAN OVERSEAS  
SCHOOLS HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
(AOSHS)**

Charter members of AOSHS were recognized recently when they each received their "Certificate of Recognition." The Berlin Brats had several classmates recognized. They were:

Pat (Martel) Little  
Jim Wright  
Calvin Bloebaum  
Renee (Shipley) Knowles  
Bill & Katrin (Lindroth) Planz  
Ric Oates  
Laura (Thornton) Coats  
Nancy (Leipmann) Van Duzer  
Renate (Kowalski) Stehr  
Sam McCuskey  
Randy Lewis  
Jeri (Polansky) Glass  
Diana (Green) Kempton  
Jean (Crews) Derry  
Ron Rainville  
Mr. Samuel Escheveste

As charter members these classmates/teachers will have the privilege of voting on all upcoming decisions. It is expected that by year's end the Board of Directors will have narrowed the site location of the historical park/museum to six (6). We look forward to this announcement and will solicit your input when that time arrives.

Below appears a story about Bonn American High School which we would like to share with you. The head of the Bonn alumni association was going to donate the school's memo-

abilia to a German museum after the school closed this year. AOSHS upon hearing of this enlisted the help of several other alumni associations to convince the head, Linda Wagner, that the items should be donated to AOSHS, where alumni will be able to view the items in future years and have their history recorded. Here's what took place:

Hi Tom!

I'm back and have a TON of exciting news for you! This is going to be long, but it's all GREAT STUFF! Gracious sakes was I met with wonderful cooperation and assistance when I arrived in Bonn! I was quite shaken up by the email I received prior to departure, but pleasantly surprised that Lavonne really got into having us there once we arrived! In fact, she practically pulled things off the wall for us and then starting thinking of other things that we could pack and send!! Great News: There were 15 of us at the school on Monday morning to pack up everything from 1989 and before...we left 1990-97 at Lavonne's request with the assurance that she was going to pack it up at the end of school next week! I can understand her wanting SOMETHING left at the school until the end. I went back on Tuesday to count the boxes we had packed, but they had already been sent to Mainz/Kassel! Therefore, here's a rough estimate of what you're getting....approximately 12-15

small boxes (they're actually McDonald french fry boxes!), 3-4 large boxes and one flat packed box with two large posters in them. I will try to get more accurate information from Lavonne, and also have her contact you with the ships. More Great News: Next week, they are going to take the Kennedy plaque out of the wall as well as the "American School on the Rhein" sign in front of the school. Those will probably be shipped via UPS as Lavonne isn't sure if APO will ship them since they are so big! The Great News Continues: We have almost a full collection of Yearbooks for you! Our school first started publishing yearbooks in 1967, and between then and now, we have all but 2 or 3 editions! These are being sent to my house so that I can do some quick research on the students who attended the school, then I will ship them to you! I hope you don't mind the stop along the way, but this is one of the best ways for us to get a semi-complete listing of who attended the school! As a dedicated member of your organization, I PROMISE I will take good care of them and ship the complete set to you! IMPORTANT REUNION TIDBITS AFFECTING AOSHS: 1. Remember I told you about the 50/50 raffle we were going to have at the reunion? Tickets were \$5 each and at the end of the evening we drew one ticket out of all and that person received 1/2 the pot and the other 1/2 was designat-

ed to go to AOSHS. Well, my friend....we thought the total pot would be about \$500-600, meaning AOSHS would receive approximately \$250-300. Well, I'm pleased to say that the total purse was \$1200, meaning I have \$600 to send you from the Bonn Alumni Association as a contribution toward the American School on the Rhein and Bonn American High School "display" in the museum. Read on...

2. In addition to the semi-complete set of yearbooks which are slated for the archives, we were given additional copies of 1967, 1972, 1977, 1978 and 1979 yearbooks. Since there was already one of each in the "archives stack" we decided to auction them off - 1/2 of the money going to the Alumni Association and 1/2 of the money going to AOSHS. Would you believe that one went for \$165, another for \$140 and the other three for a little less? In the end, the total purse on the yearbooks was \$380, which adds an additional \$190 to the AOSHS fund. ALL TOTAL, THE BONN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAS \$790 TO DONATE TO THE ARCHIVES, WHICH WE WILL BE ROUNDING TO \$800!!! SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT? Your faithful servant - always aiming to please,

Linda

Editors note: We are extremely happy to hear Linda came on board....and so SOLIDLY!!! The Berlin Brats alumni association hopes to do something similar once we

receive the boxes one of our classmates, Bill Planz, was able to recover from BAHS when its doors were closed. We are STILL anxiously awaiting their arrival....YOU will be informed just as soon as the shipment arrives.

Note from Dr. Drysdale: We have just received an email from the Brussels District Office saying that "Clarence", the school's medieval suit of Knight's armor (the school mascot), which was given to the school by the first principal shortly after the war, will soon be packed up and sent to us. All Bonn Brats have an attachment to Clarence, and look forward to visiting him in the Historical Park Brats Museum..

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**FINANCIAL REPORT  
(4/1/97 - 6/30/97)**

Balance fwd:	\$984.66
Dues Rec'd:	450.00
Contributions:	30.00
Expenses:	
Postage	186.87
Reproduction	107.74
Supplies	55.12
Scrapbk/Sup	68.05
TOTAL:	417.78

NET as of 6/30 \$ 1,046.88  
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## luck of the draw...

by Gary Carpenter ('72)

Have you ever wondered what in your life really makes a difference? Or concluded that your destiny is simply a random hand drawn from the deck? Certainly, things that occur in our lives mold us into who we become. And just as certainly, who we become affects those around us. Thirty years ago, when my father announced that we would be moving to *Berlin*, I as a young teen had very mixed emotions. More accurately, I hated the idea. I thought my moving days were over. I was living comfortably in the lush surroundings of southern California, and after a lifetime of moving from state to state and country to country, was finally developing a sense of where I belonged, was beginning to establish some roots and friends which would surely become lifelong. Dad insisted that it was a choice assignment, the opportunity of a lifetime, and that I would be exposed to culture worthy of marvel in the midst of a setting world renown for its historic events. Visions of Nazi storm troopers filled my head; surely our house would be guarded by machine gun-clad soliders who checked IDs as we at scheduled intervals would be permitted to pick up our bread-and-water-rations. I despised my father for doing this to me—jerk me

mid-term out of a school I loved, depriving me of the girlfriend I would surely have married, cutting short a baseball career that undoubtedly held the likelihood of my becoming a pro. Secretly plotting to "disappear" somewhere along our cross-country route, I started putting together Plan A. Perhaps I would "accidentally" stow myself away on a plane headed back to the west coast, maybe even ingest a calculated amount of poison that would render me unable to travel, but *somehow* I was determined to evade moving to Berlin. The next thing I knew I was circling Tegel airport. From the airplane's window, as I studied the antiquated red tile roofs and cobblestone streets, amid what appeared to be war-torn lands shrouded in beards of a hanging December's fog below me, I realized all too late that I had missed my opportunity to escape. For the time being, I was stuck with the cards I'd been dealt. Much to my dismay, I was greeted in the hallowed halls of BAHS with smiles and proverbial open arms. I say "to my dismay" because by then I had devised Plan B: if I didn't like it here *and* I couldn't get along with anybody, surely my parents would realize their mistake in carting me half way around the globe, discard me and send me back "home." Plan B, however, soon gave way to Plan C, which was rather convoluted now that I think about it. The gist of it was to cling to absolutely hating Berlin, but

at least feign having a good time while I was there. Before long, I lost track of Plan C as I became absorbed into the spirit of Berlin and all that accompanied it. In the end, it became not just another of my father's assignments, but in his words: "the luck of the draw." Distracting my hatred were AYA dances and pre-dance excursions to Charlies, the Krumelanke Bier Stube or countless others, and striving to become a member of the prestigious 5-liter Club.



There was the distinct smell and tranquility of the Grunewald, Wannsee Boat Trips, and comrades. There were pool and ping-pong and Fußball tables, the black light/TV room, in which almost all of us got kissed at one time or another while just hanging out or watching Fractured Flickers or an old Blondie and Dagwood movie or the Untouchables when any band—other than the Red King Soul Group—couldn't keep us on the dance floor. There were Frank Zappa, Jimi Hendrix, and Creedence Clearwater Revival concerts, and comrades. There were duty train trips to the Zone, pep-rallies, championships won,



Charlie's today.....

heros proclaimed, and the cheerleaders. Oh, yes, the cheerleaders! There was the stern glare of Mr. Locher, the lecherous Miss Kilpatrick, Mr. Rice's Shakespeare plays, and commandants like Miss Rekucki, Herr Voight, Mistern Hiller, Sullivan, Pepoy and DeYoung, and Misses Beams, Belt, Barlow and Pietsch, just to name a few—all mentors in their own right. And comrades. There were U-bahns, double-decker buses, the Kudamm, and the Zoo. There was the Olympic Stadium where Hitler himself oversaw soccer games decades previous to ours, the Bradenburg Gate and the Wall. There was the Outpost Theater on Sunday nights. The Cheetah and The Beautiful Balloon. And comrades. Even today I am hard-pressed to not blurt out, "Berlin," in answer to the simple question of, "Where are you from?" Growing up the way we did, we all know there is no simple answer to that question. And if the conversation lasts more than a few minutes, I will surely find a way to squeeze in that while I lived for a long time in California, Berlin is where I grew up, where I went to high school,

established roots and made those lifelong friends, and that the time spent there contributed greatly to who I am today. I sometimes wonder if I am too hung-up on Berlin and the fact that spiritually I have never left that magical city. My house is filled with antique clocks, paintings and schranke-all symbolic reminders of a time that will forever stand still. I know the city itself has changed and that it was largely the *people* who made my time there unforgettable. I know also that someday I will again return to the city that still "calls me from far away," as I did in '71 and '77, "searching for the passage back to the place I was before." To further quote Don Henley—ironically, at least to me, from *Hotel California*-- having once lived there, "You can check out anytime you like, but you can never leave." I have been dealt many hands since the days of Berlin, some of them pretty good, some of them downright lousy. Like many of you, I've had to learn to deal with all of them, because none of them compared to Berlin, none of them seemed like "home." And also like many of you, I know in my heart that my Berlin existence made a difference, changed me forever, helped mold me into who I have become. Considering all the places I could have ended up in, I'm convinced that being selected to live in Berlin was part of my destiny and indeed the luck of the draw.

# CLASS NOTES

## CLASS OF '65

After Berlin **Graham Beachum** went to college at UNC. He then worked for all the big computer giants, IBM, Tandy, Dall, Wang, Northgate, etc. Today he is the chairman and CEO of Active Software Corporation in Dallas, TX. When he isn't running Active you can find him on the water boating or on the golf course. Email Graham at [gbeachum@active.com](mailto:gbeachum@active.com) or call (214)365-9699

## CLASS OF '66

**Diane (Shaw) Drozco** attended the Univ of Oklahoma, graduating in '70. She went into the Air Force - attended OTS and worked in the computer field. These days she is married to Raymond (whom we all enjoy at our get-togethers), teaches piano and writes poetry. Did you catch Diane's poem in the January newsletter, entitled "Roots." If not, go back and check it out! Diane can be reached at (512) 447-7763 and is the class contact for the class of '66.

## CLASS OF '68

After leaving Berlin, **Cal Bloebaum** went into the Army for 2 1/2 years and had a tour in Vietnam. The corn states must be calling his name as he

has lived in Nebraska for 12 years and now Iowa for 12! He is a lead draftsman building steel buildings but in his off-time you can find Cal officiating at high school football games or playing on a softball team which he has been doing for 22 years. Divorced, with two grown children, Cal finds himself the grandfather of two young grandchildren. Call Cal at (319)385-9930, he is your class contact and looking 4-U

## CLASS OF '68

**Kathy (Kathy) Johnson** ended up in Kansas City, MO where everyone "whistled" their S's and drove pick-up trucks. Later she moved onto Ohio...where they ALSO whistle their S's and drive pick-up trucks! She's presently a secretary/bookkeeper at a paving company and says her hobbies much like in Berlin are dancing and shooting pool...although she claims to be better these days! She would like to hear from her '67-'69 classmates, call her at (216)933-7767.

## CLASS OF '71

After graduating from BAHS in '71, fellow classmate **Jim Folk** enlisted in the USAF where he served for 21 years. Jim married his high school sweetheart, fellow BAHS alumna, **Kathy Sweeney**, '72. Jim and Kathy have been married for 29 yrs. and have 4 children. Daniel age 15 entered the Air Force last December and went through basic training under LTC James (Pat) Chyrum, '73. (small world....huh?) These days Jim is a Deputy Sheriff with the Allegheny County Sheriff's office. Re-connect with Jim by writing to: 250 National Highway, LaVale, MD 21502 or email Kathy at [KATE@netbiz.net](mailto:KATE@netbiz.net)

After **Den Sinnard** graduated from BAHS he joined the US Army. He was stateside for a while but then was shipped to Berlin where he was assigned to a communications intelligence intercept site. While in Berlin Den married BAHS alumna, **Jose Mercer** '72. Together they had 3 children. After 22 yrs. and numerous assignments

stateside, in Europe and the Far East, Den retired from the Army and is working as a Defense Contractor at Ft. Huachuca, AZ.

Throughout the years Dan has continued his education and received a Master of Arts in Education. In '94 Dan remarried to wife **Debbie Lee** who is a native of Arizona and travel agent by trade. Dan can be reached by writing 2111 Foothills Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 or calling (520) 458-7847.

## NOTE from Jim Stottle:

A sincere thank you to everyone for their concerns and well wishes. Although the road to recovery is long and difficult Kevin continues to improve. We appreciate your caring thoughts and words of encouragement.

'71ers...if you have news about yourself or others you would like to share please contact me: **Renee (Shirley) Knowles** at 142 Crystal Pk Rd, Manitou Springs, CO 80829 or email: [RSK.Manitou@juno.com](mailto:RSK.Manitou@juno.com) Fax: (719)630-1602

## CLASS OF '72

After leaving Berlin, **Nancy (Leipmann) Van Duzer** went back to their home state of Maine where she attended college. In '79 she moved to the Virginia area and got into the hospitality business and has been there since! If ever in the D.C. area go to the Omni Shoreham Hotel and you will see Nancy! She's the Director of Convention Services/Catering ....and always there. She's married to a great guy, Roger, and has one 21 yr. old step-son Derrick. She says she struggles at golf and cooks on the weekends! Call Nancy at (703) 818-1658 or email: [RVandu7764@aol.com](mailto:RVandu7764@aol.com)

A mere 27 yrs. since he left Berlin, **Gary Carpenter**, tells us he still has all his teeth and his charming smile! He did 6 yrs in the AF then attended the Univ of California, Riverside and majored in geography. He worked for Geographic Information Services for a number of years then moved to Las Vegas with Lockheed Environmental. Presently he is working for the Las Vegas Valley Water District. He too married a Berlin alumna, **Jed McPherson**, '71. They have 2 sons, **Patric** and **Mathew**. These days

Gary is single, has a pool and 2 empty bedrooms. Call at least one week before arrival. Gary can be reached to book those rooms at: (702)260-6165 or email him at: carpentg@lvvwd.com

#### CLASS OF '75

Upon leaving Berlin, **Mervin Lindroth** got his B.A. in geography from Stetson Univ in FL, then a M.A. in German from Univ of So. Carolina. He has studied and lived in Germany and Sweden, taught college German and is now finally a geographer for National Imagery & Mapping Agency in Bethesda, MD. Mervin is married and has three young children. You can reach him at (301) 208-8617 or email: LindrothM@nlma.mil

Classmate, **Joe Morasco** has been in West Virginia since graduation in '75, first attending WV Univ then doing the requisite bumming around stateside. For the last 13 years he has been working in the University Library...which he claims is a little like being in the service. Still a newlywed, married only 4 years, Joe lives on 33 acres in the WV countryside. He has NO KIDS, but 5 cats, 6 dogs, deer, wild turkey, and other assorted wildlife. If you are in his

neck of the woods look him up at Rt1 Box 100 A, Thornton, WV 26440 or email him at: JMORAS@WVNM.WVN.ET.EDU

#### CLASS OF '76

**Robert Palmer** attended the Univ of Wyoming on leaving Berlin. He's married with three children and presently works for the Campbell County Government as a Human Resource/Risk Manager. He would like to hear from '76 graduates...call him at (307) 886-1728 or email: rpalmer@vccn.com

#### CLASS OF '77

**Paul Markey**, the cartoonist for the BAHS "Bull Sheet" actually graduated from a high school just outside Atlanta, GA...but like so many of us his heart is with Berlin. He attended GA State Univ where he majored in Commercial Music/Recording. He toured as a sound engineer with rock bands for awhile and then got into television as an editor. He works with the Discovery Channel, The History Channel and the Learning Channel to name just a few. He was the chief video editor for the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC which was a project lasting nearly two years and producing 80 videos.

Paul has been married for 15 yrs and has two step-children. He would love to hear from you and is a very active class contact on your behalf. Call him at (410)893-7086 or email: pmarkey@home.com

#### CLASS OF '81

**Larry McCarthy** left Berlin and graduated from high school in Colorado Springs, CO. After obtaining a BS in Computer Science from Colorado Technical College in '91 he moved to the Baltimore area to be closer to family and friends. Larry is a systems manager for a large advertising/printing company. Recently married, in '96, to wife Rhonda, the two will be returning to Berlin this summer for a vacation. Look for a full report from Larry in the next newsletter! Don't have too good of a time Larry!!!! Eat a currywurst for us! Larry can be reached by calling (410)668-9971 in Baltimore or emailing: lmccarthy@tcedvertising.com

#### TEACHER

Mr. F. Eugene Brown was at BAHS from '87 to '94. He is now fully retired and enjoys fishing, golfing and gardening. Mr. Brown has worked closely with Dr. Drysdale,

of AOSHS, to see that memorabilia from BAHS makes it to the archives. THANK YOU MR. BROWN!!!! He and his wife Norma reside in Roper, NC. He would like information on his students and can be reached at (919) 793-3969.

#### new class contacts

'72 Co-contact:

Jim Wright  
4208 W. Mission Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85014  
(602)842-2599  
email:  
BerlinBrat1972@juno.com  
(note: Pat (Martel) Little is still a contact too. Pat and Jim will be sharing duties)

'74 Cathie Duncan  
Box 45412  
San Diego, CA 92145  
(619)538-4074  
email:  
CovyTucker@aol.com

We are still looking for others who would be willing to help track down members of their class. If you think you would be interested or are willing to share the responsibilities with another classmate please let us hear from you. Ten year groups have contacts but we are still hoping to fill the rest. Those who

are contacts will tell you how rewarding the task can be, especially when you make a big "find."

Contact us at our address listed on the front page. We hope to hear from YOU soon!!!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT.97 - OSB Gathering in Covington, KY...many Berlin Brats attending.

.....next newsletter

JAN.98 ...newsletter

FEB.98....new roster

APR.98 - MELBOURNE, FL regional get-together hosted by Pat (Martel) Little.

MAY.98 - AUSTIN, TX regional hosted by Steve Brown and others.

#### **\*\*NEXT REUNION\*\***

#### **Summer of '99**

Mark your calendars now!! We want YOU! Operation Currywurst will be in attendance...courtesy of Don Conner, ('85).



wayne Fenstermacher  
1924 - 1993

News travels slowly. At least it does until you start reconnecting with your fellow Berlin alumni via mail, phone and the internet. A few months ago, Jeri (Polansky) Glass emailed me that someone had been in touch with her who heard from Carl, the oldest son of the BAHS music director from '68-'73, Wayne Fenstermacher, and that he had passed away while conducting a concert during the 1993 holiday season. The news that Mr. Fenstermacher was gone took a while to sink in. I remembered sending a card to Joe and Dorothy Ferguson in the mid-seventies and having Dorothy write back that Mr. Ferguson had died of a heart attack. Then I remembered further back, during my sophomore year at BAHS, when they were about to announce over the PA system that Norbert DeYoung had died. Vice-Principal Locher had taken me down to Mr.

Fenstermacher's music room to hear the announcement there. And now Mr. Fenstermacher is gone, too. But in many important ways, he's not--his dedication and never-ending perseverance lives on in us, his students. If you learned anything as a student of Wayne Fenstermacher's, it was strength. He probably coined the Nike phrase and should have been collecting royalties every time you hear: "Just do it." Without actually saying those words, and without being harsh or insensitive, he pushed us all beyond what we thought we were capable of doing. If you had a cold, you probably let that bug get you with your attitude, so just keep on going and you'll feel better. OK, maybe we didn't feel better, but we DID get through the concert, the show, the road trip, or whatever. THEN we felt better. When I look back on the concert and festival schedule we had, I wonder how there was ever time for school work. (Then I remember, the only homework I actually ever did outside of school hours was for math and science classes....sorry, Miss Beams and Mr. Leonard, but then...you knew that!) Born in Wyomissing, PA, of par-

ents descended from (you guessed it) window makers in Germany who sailed to the New World in the late 1600's and early 1700's, Mr. Fenstermacher attended Columbia University in New York City. He had been teaching in the Big Apple, where he had met his wife Helen while playing piano during his graduate days. Helen has one of the most beautiful voices I've ever heard, and she taught private vocal lessons to me and many others in Germany. After seeing an ad in 1957 for teachers to go overseas, the family took the big boat over in 1958 where he became music director at Kaiserslautern. From Kaiserslautern he went on to Frankfurt, then to Munich in 1961, where he staged lavish musicals, including "The Mikado," "Showboat," and "South Pacific." He had quite a following in Munich, and a lot of support--everyone wanted to be involved in the music program if they could. It must have been this heritage that made him want to produce musicals at BAHS, as David Hall had done before him; but with the shrinking population of upper-classmen in Berlin, we ended up scaling them down to shows where we dressed in costume and did excerpts

from musicals. Thinking back on it, this probably gave us all more experience in a variety of styles than had we done a full musical once a year. It was in Berlin that he first was handed the responsibility of the marching band. Though it wasn't his thing, as we used to say, he delved into it and made it the best he could. There were times we barely had enough marchers on the field to form a "B." We marched in snow till we could no longer see the yard lines--brass players will remember trying to keep their mouthpieces from freezing to their lips. We marched after night fall; with northern Germany's days so short, there was little light available in the practice hours before and after school. We learned to keep going, no matter what. At one point drum majorette Beverly LaCour had lost her whistle, but she didn't miss a beat, and hollered out in her best Louisiana drawl: "Twoo-oo-eall! Tweet-tweet-tweet!" and off we all marched. We made trips on the overnight train to travel with the football team. This was no small task for a teacher to organize, since everyone had to have military travel orders cut. Then there was the challenge of keeping us sepa-

rated on the train by gender...Some of my friends weren't even supposed to be traveling on that train, due to their dads' positions, but somehow we made it--apparently with escorts we didn't even know were aboard. Looking back through my scrapbook, I found photos from the Berlin Observer and the Stars and Stripes of Mr. Fenstermacher conducting concert after concert, accepting donation checks from the music boosters and wives' clubs, and an extensive interview when Berlin hosted the spring music festival, THE major event in our musical lives each year. In my photo album is a photo of a cold, wet band member wearing his raincoat at a football game. (We needed to suffer and be toughened, not die of pneumonia). In addition to the regular band and chorus program, Mr. Fenstermacher also started a glee club, the Nightingales. If we had people who could sing, we had people who could sing better...so he pushed us further, and then a little harder. Son Carl was recruited, too, along with some of his friends, and he didn't cut them any slack either. But anyone with any talent--whether in chorus or band--was given solos, and learned

to overcome stage fright and use it to advantage. If you showed leadership skills, you were going to end up as drum majorette, band president, or equipment manager. Throughout his career there were late night rehearsals, week-ends on the road, and hours of classroom preparation. According to Carl, he seemed to love it, but the stress was very hard for him to endure. He did not talk about it, to his family, but they knew. After Carl graduated from BAHS in 1973, the Fenstermachers stayed on one more year, then finally decided that after 16 years in Germany, it was time to go home. Home for him was the New York City area and for Helen was North Carolina. Trying to get a job in the south must've been like trying to fit a square peg in a round hole, though. He landed a position as the music director at Columbia High School in Maplewood, NJ and began there in the fall of 1974. He took on the chorus, concert band, and even the marching band at first. As the years progressed, he weathered the changing attitudes from school boards, especially with respect to religious sensitivity and school politics. He stayed out of the in-

fighting as much as possible, focusing on the students and on presenting programs with everyone in mind. He created a learning environment geared toward cultivating complete musicians. On December 3, 1993 Carl's mom called to tell him that his dad had had a massive heart attack that morning during a winter concert for a ladies' retirement home, and had died practically before he hit the ground. We can only imagine the shock this was to his family and students. He had never had any kind of heart problem before and was only 69 years old. Carl told us that hundreds attended his memorial service the following Monday, including some from our generation, who stood up and expressed how Wayne Fenstermacher had helped them both musically and in life by making them keep on going, even when they wanted to quit. Professional musicians, writers, even directors, gave hours of anecdotes from the time they spent as his students. Some even told how they had lacked a reason for living until Mr. Fenstermacher got hold of them in music class, and then went on to attribute their resulting career success to him. When I think back of all

the truly inspirational teachers I had during the seven years we were in Berlin, it's hard to pinpoint which characteristics of my success or my attitudes resulted from experiences with which Instructor. But looking back on my career path from where I am now in design center management, and recalling those who questioned whether I was geared for this field, it may be that I'm doing well in a creative position because dedicated teachers like Mr. Fenstermacher instilled the drive to do my best in all undertakings so that I'd never have to say I should have tried harder. As for the love of music, it has taken me through a second bachelor's degree in music history, and on to having been principal oboist for the Scottsdale Symphony Orchestra, and is still a source of enjoyment and relaxation. In fact, I'm taking guitar lessons and actually do practice now. Amazing. A number of both Helen and Wayne's students have gone much further musically than I have-- many have performed on and off Broadway in musicals like 'Grease' and 'Cats'. Several went on to the Met and other opera houses in the country. He really encouraged us to reach

for the extra energy and do our best. He taught us the value in perseverance. Hearing how he felt this world, I suddenly remember singing in a concert for a retirement home in Berlin. Afterwards, an elderly woman came up to me with tears in her eyes, grabbed my hand and thanked me, and asked me to thank the others "for our wonderful voices." And that's what it's all about, isn't it?

*tribute by:  
Diane (Green) Kempton  
BAHS Class of '72*

Thanks to Carl Fenstermacher for the background on his mom and dad. Both Carl and Hans welcome email from fellow Berliners and also can pass any messages on to their mom.

Carl may be reached via email at: cten5@u.net.com.com

The address for Hans is: hansf@architekt-usa.com

***Coming To A Regional Get-Together Near You and Future Reunions!!!***

**BERLIN BRATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCRAPBOOK**

...creates new memories!

Many of us have our yearbooks from BAHS to remind us of our youth

and our fun times together yesterday behind the Iron Curtain. Now your Berlin Brats alumni association is creating a scrapbook of new memories of our reunions, events, regionals, newsletters, and more! This scrapbook was begun in January 1997 by Renee (Shipley) Knowles and is maintained by Renee and Jen (Potansky) Glass. It was a big hit at the recent regional dinner in San Antonio because friends and classmates see others they knew whenever they were in Berlin. In addition to past newsletters, lots of photos, and special features are to be found within. Hey - we're even including quite a few business cards! SO - at future regional get-togethers and reunions, we'll be sharing more than just great memories, laughter, and yearbooks; we'll be sharing the Berlin Brats alumni association's scrapbook with mementos of your friends and things related to us - as we are today!



RENEE BEING WITH SCRAPBOOK



**SAN ANTONIO HOSTS  
LARGEST BERLIN  
BRATS REGIONAL  
GET-TOGETHER!!!!!!!**

Joe Condrill, OSB  
guest writer

Seventeen excited Berlin Brats met at the Alamo Cafe in San Antonio, TX, Friday evening, July 18th, for the largest of three regional get-togethers held this year. (previous ones were in Phoenix, AZ and Breckenridge, CO) Attending this event were faculty, former students and alumni associated with the school from 1964 to 1976. For three hours Berlin Brats poured over yearbooks, laughed at pictures, shared "war stories" of their times in Berlin, before anyone thought about ordering dinner. During the dinner, the sharing continued, and the Berlin Brats lost track of time, so much so that they closed the joint at Midnite. Seven Berlin Brats including their spouses went to a local coffee shop to continue their reminiscing. The get-together finally ended just after 2 a.m. with hugs and commitments to attend the OVERSEAS BRATS "Northern Kentucky Gathering" this October and another regional set for Austin, TX sometime next year.

*Attendees:*  
Pat Clyburn  
Diane (Shaw) Orozco  
Raymond Orozco  
Debbie Beausoleil  
Bernard Beausoleil  
Mrs. Judy Belt - FAC  
Sandy McCuskey  
Jeri (Polansky) Glass  
Judy Sinnard  
Joe Condrill, OSB  
Dale Ahrendt  
Julie (Godward) Ahrendt  
Rick Laube  
Steve Brown  
Judy (Brown) Laube  
Sheila (Zimmerman) Herzog  
Judy Smith  
Cindy (Smith) Wilder

*EDITOR'S NOTE:*  
Pat Clyburn ('73), now an AF Lt.Col with 20 years in service, couldn't make the Friday night dinner. So a special dinner was arranged on the preceeding night for him to meet with Jeri (Polansky) Glass and Joe Condrill of OSB. His picture is included here also.



Photos by Joe Condrill and Jeri (Polanski) Glass





51	Lynch, Steven	'76	not a good address		
52	Markey, Paul	'77	same	email: pmarkey@home.com	
53	Martin, Karen	'75	not a good address		
54	McCuskey, Sam	'71	same	email: sammtk@networld.net	
55	Meyer, Randy	'64	attempted not known		
56	Morasco, Steve	'70	244 Pleasant St.	Morgantown, WV 26505	1-800-291-2122
				email: smorascol@juno.com	
				email: JMORASCO@WVNET.EDU	
				Glen Cove, NY 11542	
57	Miraseo, Joe	'75	same		
58	Naylor, Duncan	'70	102 Woolsey Ave		
59	Olsen, Lloyd	'74	Box closed		
60	Oybock, Ed	'75	Forwarding Order Expired		
61	Payne, Kendra Morgan	'80	504 Breewood	Fredericksburg, VA 22407	(540)891-2651
62	Phillips, Laura Jesse	'74	No such #		(716)227-9698
63	Rathnow, Ron	'71	same		(306)377-5884
64	Replege, Ken	'72	607 S. Charleston Ave.	Bremerton, WA 98312	
				email: pcr3@ix.netcom.com	
				Farmington, MO 63640	(573)760-0698
65	Robinson, Tom	'69	710 E. Columbia St		
66	Roehe, Carne Wieser	?	not a good address		
67	Schellerup, Mack	'75	not a good address		
68	Sellers, Kellie	'77	Forwarding Order Expired		
69	Shaw, Samuel	'64	not a good address		
70	Shupley, Renee Knowles		same	email: RSK.Manitow@junn.com	
				fax: (719)630-1302	
				email: 110101.1414@compuserve.com	
71	Shupley, Kimesa Lindner		same		
72	Short, Jimmy	'74	Forwarding Order Expired		
73	Short, Danny	'80	not a good address		
74	Sennard, Dan	'71	same	email: dsennar@huachuca-emh27.army.mil	
75	Sinnard, Judy	'73	13110 Kuykendahl #608	Houston, TX 77090	(281)876-9148
76	Slagnitla, M. Diane Fonseca		1221 Blanco Rd #1202	San Antonio, TX 78216	(210)342-1054
77	Stevenson, Owen	'73	1575 Hunter Rd. Apt #104	Winona, MN 55987	
78	Stevenson, Michael	'75	Forwarding Order Expired		
79	Stingel, Linda	'65	same		1-800-392-7377
80	Taylor, Pam Eckhardt		Forwarding Order Expired		
81	Tolbert, Debbie Colligan		not a good address		
82	Tolbert, Lynne Short		not a good address		
83	Vine, P. Anne	'82	2764 Monza	Tustin, CA 92782	
				email: PeggyABarn@aol.com	
84	Walsh, Peter	'75	212 Pinecove	Odenton, MD 21113	(410)674-7827
85	Wheeler, Debbie Hogan		2425 W. Arkansas Ln #G	Arlington, TX 76013	(817)460-6011
				email: hoganda@arlingtonrealtor.com	
86	Wright, Kory	'74	not a good address		
87	Wyman, Bob	'71	same	email: wyman7@tisc.net	
88	Yawn, Rhoda	'75	not a good address		
89	Zapp, Theresa Limpus		not a good address		

#### NEW MEMBERS NOT ON REGISTER

Aubrey, Stefan LTC	'74	USDAO Stockholm Dept of State Washington, DC 20521	
Brown, F. Eugene	FAC	1151 Albermarle Beach Rd	Roper, NC 27979
Brown, Judy Laube		412 Beardsley Ln.	Austin, TX 78746
			email: JLaube@aol.com
Berge, Renae Gerhardstein		1339 Semillon Way	Gonzales, CA 93926
			ROGERHARD65@aol.com
Hanson, Rose Neel	'64	102 St. Ives Dr.	Savannah, GA 31419
			email: Rose_HN@aol.com
Hoyle, Stephen	'72	140 Willard St. Apt #20	Lowell, MA 01850
McCarthy, Larry	'83	8729 Emge Rd	Baltimore, MD 21234
			lmcCarthy@tcaadverbing.com
Slohr, Bargit Gardner	'68	20892 Missionary Ridge St.	Walnut, CA 91789
West, Nancy-Hallop	'71	3427 E. Janice Way	Phoenix, AZ 85032