

Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

October 2008 Volume 5, Issue 4

Troop 46 "Outpost of Freedom"

'No American community is complete without Boy Scouts. Troop 46, named Freedom Outpost, fulfills this need in the Berlin American Community, providing boys with the healthy outdoor activities, guidance and the goals that have become such an important part of American life.'

-The Berlin Observer, 1957

Dear Berlin Brats Community,

I am a member of Troop 46 "Freedom Outpost" in Berlin, Germany. We were founded around 1957, but it might have been as early as 1954, we are not sure. After 50 years, we still continue to meet at the former American Community Chapel on Hüttenweg 46 and we are planning a BSA Historical Camporee in the spring of 2009 in celebration of the 60th aniversary of the Berlin Airlift.

"Learning about our past; preparing for our future..."

Troop 46 has a long and storied history. From the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall to the reunification of Germany, we have been through it all! As a community organization, our history is the history of our community. Therefore, we are working on piecing together as much of our history in order to learn about our community and to have a basis from which to write our future! We are currently collecting historical information about our Troop.

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If any Berlin Brats were members of Troop 46, have stories and photos to share, please do email me! We would love to hear from you. This site shows some of the results of our research into our past. If you have any information about Troop 46 in Berlin (personal memories, documents, etc..) please feel free to contact our Scoutmaster and pass on your knowledge! Who knows, it might even make it onto

our website! http://www.scoutlander.com

Yours in Scouting, Vanessa Hansen



The Transatlantic Council #802 of the Boy Scouts of America, originally created in May 1950 as EUCOM, BSA Advisory Board and later EUCOM Advisory Council, serves to make the Scouting program available to United States citizens and their dependents living in west-and-central Europe, the Near East, and North Africa.

Troop 46 "Freedom Outpost" is one of the oldest existing Troops in the Transatlantic Council.

Thanks to the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections, we have been able to date the existence of Troop 46 to as early as 1952.

View Inside:

Berlin Brat/Scout responses from Jim Polley '64, Richard Sobieski '60, Toby West '61, Bernie Beausoleil '72 and Sam McCuskey '71.

Berlin Brat Scouting.....

When I joined the Troop somewhere around 1957, it was headed up by Jim Tice - the scoutmaster. He was either a PFC, or maybe SP4. Tall and lanky, always a mischievous glint in his eye. A great leader, and a fun guy. One of our campouts was a mid-winter deal in the British sector, daytime temps hovering around No degrees Fahrenheit. We managed to dig through the permafrost to make a "refrigeration" pit per the Scout Manual, but our purpose was to prevent our food from freezing. Even so, it took an egg many seconds to blop out of its shell!

When we got too old to be Boy Scouts, an Explorer Post was organized, with my father as Post Advisor.

We had a number of GI's from the ASA outfit sign up as leaders. A great bunch of guys. The highlight of the Post was when dear old dad worked out a deal with an Air Force buddy to fly us to the World Fair in Brussels in 1958. But to do so required us to become Air Explorers. A wave of the magic wand, and we were! Shazam! The C-47 troop carrier was an adventure in itself as we sat like paratroopers we had all seen in the movies. Yes, we wore 'chutes! The World Fair was awesome! We saw Color Television sets, an IBM Selectric typewriter with just a single ball going around like crazy, and many other marvels. A few days later, the C-47 came back and whisked us back to Berlin.

On the History page of Troop 46 (on their website) they mention a few of our Berlin Brats:

In December last year the troop sent delegates to Wildflecken, near Fulda, for a snow camporee and competition in scouting skills hosted by the 14th Armored Calvary Regiment and Headquarters V Corps. The Berliners were selected as the best delegation at the camporee for their superb showing of scouting skill, exemplified by their adaption to the adverse winter weather conditions. An all-expense-paid trip to London on George Washington's birthday was awarded to Scoutmaster Tice for the fine showing of the troop. Carrying on in the "Be Prepared" tradition, five members of the troop, Wayne Duke, Robert White, Toby West, Howard Schlereth and Richard Sobieski aided a German injured in an auto accident near Turner Barracks. The boys gave the injured driver first aid and directed traffic around the accident scene until relieved by Berlin Police.

Richard Sobieski '60

Being old and feeble minded.....I do not remember that particular life saving incident. I do recall the good (and the bad) of Troop 46. On the good side, I remember, quite vividly, the troop excursions to Kandersteg, Switzerland (I was almost arrested for picking an Edelweiss, the national flower of Switzerland), and the Brussels World's Fair of 1958. To get to the Fair we flew in a C-47 with metal side seats. Everyone was given a parachute.....except me. The Pilot said that I was too small to safely wear one. As an after thought, he did say, we would go down with the plane together (*Ah*, *thanks!*). Since we ate k-rations there was also a lot of smoking of non-filter cigarettes. Two of us got into trouble for something I can't recall and were confined to base one day after being threatened with an instant flight back to Berlin. (*We must have committed a very evil deed and I will not mention that I think it was Frank Hooven who was my partner in crime*) but since it was an international scout event that was not a bad thing. We met



numerous other malcontents from troops serving time at the base camp also. I may have been too adventurous for Troop 46 at the time. The bad will continue to be lost in the fog of the past.

Toby West '61

This was at a camping trip in Heilbronn, probably 1958.

L to R: Back Row, Mike Sestric, (? a leader), me, Bob Ehrman, Dale Blankenship (leader), John Arnold, Robert White, Bob Siemienkewicz (a leader - we just called him "Alphabet.")
Front Row: (?, a scout from the Heilbronn troop), Detlef Sumner, Dale Fitch, (?, scout from the Heilbronn troop), Bob Chambers.
Photo provided by Richard Sobieski '60



TAC Outpost of Freedom Segment

This TAC segment was formerly a controlled segment. You could only get one segment per trip and only from the TAC Berlin office, where it was registered by name. It was presented with a certificate to Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and adults participating in a trip across the "Iron Curtain" via the "duty train" between Frankfurt and Berlin; for hiking the Berlin Historical Trail, and for writing an essay on "What Freedom Means to Me".

In 1960, the BSA - Boy Scouts of America were celebrating their Golden Jubilee. Because it wasn't possible for scouts in Europe to travel back to the US a Jubilee Camporee was held at Camp Mohawk in England. Troop 46 sent 3 patrols with adult leaders and, as the attached article indicates, sponsored a number of German scouts to also attend. We flew from Tempelhof - the only time that I remember ever flying in or out of Berlin- and landed in England. Once we got to Camp Mohawk it began to rain, and rain, and rain for almost the entire time we were there. A very soggy week to the point that the camp was renamed "Camp Mudhole."

Troop 46 Official Scarf When worn the Front Ends had Alternating Red and Blue Stripes with White Stars.



Pictured are Patches from the Camporee; the scarf that was developed especially for the camporee (but then became the official scarf) and a newspaper article about the troop raising funds to attend.

roop 46 and German Scouts Fly to England this Month To Attend American Jubilee

Members of Berlin Boy Scouts of America Troop Number 46 accompanied by 24 German Scout guests, will fly to England later this month to attend the American Scout Jubilee conducted by the Transatlantic Council for the European Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, the Berlin Council and the money will be turned over the Kempinski Hotel. mmand Boy Scout Committee an-unced this week.

nounced this week.

Headed by Lieutenant Colonel
James D. Polley, the committee is
now working out the details under
the guidance of Neighborhood Commissioner Lieutenant Colonel Frank
L. Lear for the celebration which
will be conducted August 28 through
September 3 near Salisbury.

Local Scouts are in the midst of campaign to help finance the \$2,500 overall cost of the trip with bake sales, carrying groceries and washing cars. The uniformed Scouts will have their next bake sale Monday at 9 a.m. at the Shopping Center.



Above: The Scarf worn for everyday occasions.

Chamber of commerce in cermany, A subscription to meet the total required already has been obtained and the money will be turned over during a luncheon next Tuesday at the Kempinski Hotel.

The 24 local Scouts and their Ger man counterparts will have a camp-out next Thursday night on Peacock Island (Wannsee) to become better acquainted and to prepare for the outdoor living they will encounter together in England.

As a preliminary warmup for the international celebration, Troop Number 46 recently participated in a Jubilee Camporee at Wildflecken they captured the highest award among 24 other troops, to Blue Ribbon for Field Sanitation.

Led by Scoutmaster Kyp Buth and Assistant Scoutmaster Esperanto Prieto, the Berlin troop checked into Camp Headquarters with approx-imately 500 other scouts from North-ern Europe. Within a few hours, the peaceful Wildinedeen valley was transformed into a young, boisterous city of tents.

The weekend Affair

The weekend affair was highlighted by games, contests and religious services. The local young troopers carned first place in a Patrol Challenge Contest by tossing a rope over a suspended pole and being the first to tie it to a log, lift the log into the air and secure the rope's other end.

After packing their gear all of the troops assembled for their last ceremony and watched Berlin accept the coveted blue ribbon. Despite a few minor bruises, Troop Number 46 returned home with high spirits and three days of outdoor living, eagerly anticipating their coming jaunt to England. Scoutmaster Buth said.

Our tents were GI pup tents that were arranged to shelter an entire patrol - living in them for a week in the rain became a bit tight-and damp. Because of the rain many of the planned activities were cancelled or scaled back.

After the Camporee we did a bit of touristing - I remember seeing Stonehenge- before heading back to Berlin.

Jim Polley '64



TO ENGLAND—This quartet (left to right) Ed Mix, Roy Murray, Jr.-Jim Polley, IV, and Phillip Lear hit the road for England and the Europeans Celebration of the 56th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. In the insert, two British scouts, (L-R) Jim Cook and David Ellam, help US Scouts Ed Mix carry greeeries from the BC commissary as part of a drive to enable the Berlin scouts of the BSA to raise funds to make the trip to

Camp Mohawk Patch Site for the 1960 Jubilee Camporee



National Jubilee Patch



Transatlantic Council Jubilee Patch



Campfire Ashes http://www.scoutlander.com

If you have ever seen the Boy Scout Ashes Ceremony, you know that ashes of previous campfires are mixed with the ashes of later



campfires to help Scout cheerfulness and Scout Spirit continue from campfire to campfire. What you may not know is that the origin of many ashes today can be traced back to THE Original Scout Campfire, held on Brownsea Island by Baden-Powell himself! Interestingly, the history of most ashes today includes Troop 46! You see, in 1978, Troop 46, Berlin's own "Freedom Outpost," hosted a camporee at Rose Range here in Berlin. At that campfire, they had an "ash ceremony" where the council ashes were mixed with the ashes at that camporee. The next morning, those ashes were collected and passed on to the many scouters that were there.

Since then, those Scouters have gone their seperate ways and mixed the ashes with campfires the world over. Thus, there is a little of Troop 46 in every Scout Campfire around the world!

Annual Report to the Commanding Generals February 1963





Feb 1963. These were taken, if memory serves correctly, in the Berlin Brigade Chapel where the Troop then met. To my knowledge this was the first and only time this occurred (at least between 1959-1963) that the scout units presented a summary of their annual activities to the Commanding General.

Jim Polley '64

Pictured to the right is the long term camper patch. This was a council patch and if you look at the scouts in the above picture of the annual report to the Commanding General you can see several of them wearing them. Basically you had to camp either 5 or 7 days (can't remember which) to qualify to wear a small scout trefoil on the country in which you'd camped. For those of us in Berlin this was harder then you think. Since the first step in all our trips was to get from Berlin out to "West Germany" this made long trips difficult - We would have to catch the duty train (the military train) in the early evening and travel overnight to Frankfurt before we could even begin our camping trip. Of course the train itself was an adventure since it was traveling through Communist East Germany and at every stop the train would be surrounded by Russian and East German soldiers. We would frequently, against all the rules try and speak with the soldiers. We often had military C-rations for our camping food and these included cigarettes. We saved these and sometimes tried to trade them to the Russian soldiers for their insignia. As a scout I earned the long term camper designation for Germany, England (the Jubilee Camporee) and Italy.



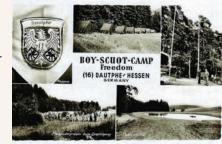


This is my original Troop patch - I'm still a registered adult scout leader and have the patch on my red brag vest.

Below is a postcard from Camp Freedom from 1959 - the first summer I attended. Went twice as I remember but after that our camping was less "structured." Looking at the Troop 46 website and its link to the Transatlantic Council it appears that the Camp is still open.

To get there we had to catch the duty train from Berlin and get off at some very early hour after the train passed into West Germany. Coming home it was the same - catching the train after it left Frankfurt but before it crossed the border.

Jim Polley



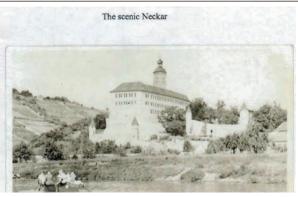
My son made Eagle and went on 2 Philmont trips as well as a National Jamboree continuing a long family tradition in scouting.



NECKAR RIVER BOAT TRIP The "gang" - from right- left: Kneeling-Frank Vavrin, unk Standing: Ron Bolin, Chuck Hewin, Charlie Warnock, Dale Fitch, "Shorty" Anderson (scoutmaster) and Jim Polley



This was a 3-4 day boat trip on the Neckar River. It was hosted by a troop in West Germany -possibly out of Heidelburg. There were a number of troops involved. We were using Army engineer boats which were flat at the bow and stern. They were designed to cross rivers not go down them! Were terrible to row and steer and we wobbled out way down the river. We camped each night at a river side camp ground.



View of a castle from the Neckar River





Great Memories were brought to the forefront when I opened a recent email from the Berlin Brats. Inside was a request from Vanessa Hansen-Waliszewski representing Troop 46 the "Freedom Outpost" Scout troop in Berlin. She had found the Berlin Brats website and was anxious to connect with Berlin Brats that were previously a part of this historic Troop to help build "their history" for their homepage.

I have already emailed Vanessa some information, and fortunately I still have newspaper articles and photos from some of the activities we organized and participated in Berlin, England and Germany. I achieved Eagle Scout, so did my brother Briand. My brother Gerald reached Life Scout, my Dad was the Scoutmaster and was tougher on us on achievement than the rest of the troop. Our Troop 46 produced several other Eagle Scouts, Life Scouts and we dominated and won the majority of competitions for several years while attending the 2 week Summer Camps throughout Germany and England. Troop 46 also sponsored the Berlin Camporee hosting 700 Scouts from throughout Europe, in May 1969.

Eagle Scout Mark Oliver and I were selected to represent Troop 46, Berlin and the Boy Scouts Transatlantic Council, Europe along with 22 other U.S. Boy Scouts from Europe in the 13th World Jamboree held at Mt. Fuji, Japan in August 1971. On that trip, we experienced 2 earthquakes in Tokyo and were in a typhoon which destroyed the World Jamboree base camp at Mt. Fuji, housing 25,000 Scouts from around the world. We were evacuated up to the highlands and stayed with Japanese families in their homes and schools. I filmed that trip on Super 8mm movie film and transferred it to DVD. I still have a copy. It was an incredible 3 week trip that I will never forget! The Berlin American Womens' Club sponsored my trip. After I returned to Berlin, I worked for three weeks at AFTV-Berlin and co-produced a 30 minute TV special on the trip which aired twice to the American forces.

Thanks for sending me Vanessa's email. It really brings back great memories. I'll be glad to contribute as much as I have to the cause and start to compile a list of other Scouts.

Bernie Beausoleil '72

Berlin Airlift / Die Luftbrücke and Troop 46

Troop 46 joined Berliners, former Airlift pilots and personnel in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift at Tempelhof Airport on Friday, June 27th, 2008.



Members of Troop 46 "Freedom Outpost" posing with Johnny Marcia, a Berlin Airlift pilot veteran.

In February 2008, Troop 46 had the great honor of hosting retired Col. Gail S. Halverson at All Saints Catholic Church and made him an honorary member of

Troop 46 "Freedom Outpost."



"In 1909, Wilber and Orville Wright demonstrated in Berlin their first motor-powered flying machine. They flew from what was then Tempelhof Field.

A marker was erected by the Boy Scouts of Troop 46, Berlin." - text from the Berlin Historic Trail Guidelines from the Transatlantic Council



Gentlemen, (Berlin Brats)

Curtis Carter provided the Berlin Brats with a 60th Anniversary of the Airlift Patch, shown on

Mr. Carter has presented Tim Chopp, Founder of the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation, with a First Day Cover depicting the bringing down of the Berlin Wall and a couple of 50th Anniversary pins for his flying museum.

These were compliments from the Berlin Brats and Tim Chopp sends his thanks.



ABC nightly news 7-25-2008 Col. Gail S. Halvorsen was ABC's Person of the Week.

I can only say THANK YOU ALL! The support that Troop 46 has received in piecing together our "lost" history has been fabulous! We truly appreciate your time and effort in helping out YOUR Troop!

All your pictures and letters/memories and newspaper clippings and whatever else you forward will be incorporated into our website over the next week or so and I will ask our Historian to put together a Troop 46 history "Scrap Book" which includes everything that gets sent to us.

Also, anytime you are headed to Berlin, please let us know. We would love to have you come back and visit!

Thanks again!

Coleman Cain Scoutmaster

"Freedom Outpost" Boy Scouts of America Berlin, Germany

Scout On!

Troop 46



Berlin to host 2009 Edelweiss District Spring Camp

On May 8-10, 2009 Berlin will host the Edelweiss Spring Camporee. The organizer of the camporee is our Scoutmaster, Coleman Cain. The camporee will give scouts the opportunity to test their orienteering skills while taking in many of Berlin's historic sites.

more details to follow......

The Scouting Tradition Continues.....

Amazing! What a coincidence.

I was in the Boy Scouts in Berlin and yes I was in Troop 46. I earned my Eagle Scout also in Berlin like Bernie. I am currently an Assistant Scout Master with my son's Troop 620, in Valley Center, CA. I have not been able to verify my Eagle Scout with the local council. They said there is no record of my Eagle Scout with National. Maybe someone at Troop 46 can help me provide some kind of verification. If I can prove my Eagle Scout, then I would be in line for my "Silver Beaver" the highest rank in scouting. It represents 30 years of service after receiving your Eagle Scout.

Sam McCuskey '71

Sam McCuskey's Eagle Scout Award is Verified

I talked to National, your Eagle date is June 9, 1971.

Rich Charfauros San Diego-Imperial Council Council Support Staff

Bernie and Jeri, thanks for all of your help. I have been trying to verify my Eagle Scout ever since my son, Sammy, got started in Cub Scouts, seven years ago, he is now a Life Boy Scout. Without the information you provided, I doubt if Rich would have been able to find the information, because I have had others try. Again Jeri and Bernie, thanks so much. I owe you a Schulteiss the next time we get together.

Truly, Sam McCuskey '71

(Also thanks to Vanessa, currently of Troop 46 in Berlin, for contacting the Berlin Brats and starting this whole ball rolling!)

WALK THE WALL CHALLENGE

Continues...... until November 9th

Tom Post '64, Jim Polley '64, plus 2 other scouts had an interesting 50 mile hike of the Wall. Jim has written about it, it's quite interesting and I can't wait to share it with you in our next issue with the other Walk the Wall stories.

There is a very thorough Timeline of the Berlin Airlift on the Morgenpost website

http://www.morgenpost.de/berlin/article594943/60_Jahre_Berliner_Luftbruecke.

AMERIKAHAUS BERLIN A SYMBOL REVIVED

Herr Longolius - FAC '61-'67

Only a few months after the United States became responsible for their sector of Berlin after WW II, an early version of the Amerikahaus opened business and quickly became a cultural center providing information, books, newspapers, films, etc., about a world which had long been closed to Germans. And although the US government took care of the cost, in those happy days the information and the image of the USA, literature, of the citizens and of political parties was basically non-partisan. The respect for the USA in Berlin had a lot to do with that.

Berliners from East and West used the facilities until the wall stopped visitors from the Soviet sector from coming, but discussions, language classes, briefings on exchange activities, etc., kept the building and its devoted U.S. and German staff busy.

It was a symbol of German – American relations, friendly at first, later quite controversial when the war in Vietnam sparked protests and demonstrations, and again the Amerikahaus was a symbol, even if only of the presence of a warring nation in Berlin.

When affairs quieted down, activities resumed, but they never were quite the same again. Security had become a concern. And when Berlin was re-united, the interest in the original concept of Amerikahäuser all over Germany faded. In Berlin it became a business promotion center, the library was given away, very few events took place in the building. At the end, it was part of the crowded US Embassy, and finally, in September 2006 –prematurely – the Ambassador of the United States returned it to the city of Berlin.

When the city considered selling the building like any other real estate, without planning for its tradition to continue, a committee of individuals and organizations formed to keep it alive as a center of trans-atlantic dialogue. I am an active member, at first we thought we could manage by ourselves, but then we found there would be no public support and our finances would not be strong enough. Many ideas were developed until we finally found a partner in the "Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung" (Federal Civic Education Agency). They will take over most of the office space and allow our committee to run the exhibition areas and the auditorium.

Our first public demonstration of this cooperation will be a discussion series about the elections in the USA "Wie wählt Amerika?" starting at the end of September. On November 4 there will be a big party and in late November we will have a final podium to find out what had really happened on election day.

This is a big step, but not more. We still have to find funding for long-term plans and have to re-establish the Amerikahaus in the minds of Berliners as an interesting site for the exchange of ideas. The building has been "dead" for such a long time that this will be a hard job, but we are optimistic. After all, we have already come a long way.

Baby Cub ~ School Mascot

Penny McLean '88, has just landed the "talent host" position for the local PBS station in Boynton Beach, Florida.



Penny practices her cheers







Kim McLean '77, Penny's older sister (pictured here) was the "official school mascot"

Fellow Brat **Penny McLean, Class of 1988** was selected as the on air co-host for WXEL Public Broadcasting Station, located in Boynton Beach, Florida. Penny has been volunteering for WXEL for the past five years. Her pre-taped spots aired on Saturday Aug 2, 2008 at 5:30 pm, and was inserted at the end of the pre-taping of "The Glenn Miller Spectacular". Penny's next on-air debut was presented during the "Mario Lanza" segment on Wednesday, August 6, 2008. For all you Florida Brats, keep an eye out for Penny during the next up coming WXEL Telethon.

Congratulations Penny on a job well done!



Baby Cub & Bear "in the splits"



Both "cheer" at a '75-'76 BAHS football game.

NEW LETTERJACKET FOR BERLIN BRAT

Danny Shenefield '74

Recently Danny wrote to inform that he contacted "Staats" (the letterjacket company we have listed on our Berlin website) to have a Letterjacket made. To quote Danny, "...it came out as good as new. The contact info on the Brats page is still good."

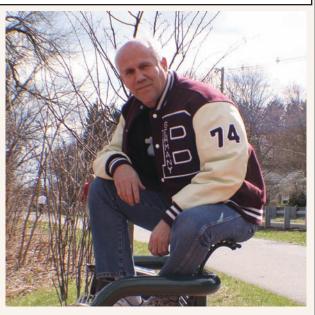
I'm very pleased to be able to fly the colors again.

On a side note, when I was out in Las Vegas I had a gentleman stop to talk because he noticed my jacket. I discovered he worked for Pan Am in the 70's and his kids were also Brats.

He said he would get his kids signed up with the Brats page.

Berlin Brats Rule!

Danny



(Hey Danny, bring that Letterjacket to next summer's Reunion so we can all take a look at it!!!!)

Many of you met Patricia Maryland, '71 at the Berlin Reunion



PROMOTION FOR PATRICIA MARYLAND, CLASS OF '71

The St. John Health Board of Trustees and Ascension Health have named Patricia Maryland, Dr.P.H. as the President and CEO of St. John Health. "Dr. Maryland was recently named the Ascension Health Ministry Market Leader for Michigan," said Lucarelli, Chair, St. John Health Board of Trustees. "In that capacity, she is responsible for the strategic positioning and operational performance of Ascension Health's five Health Ministries in communities across Michigan. We are thrilled that she has agreed to lead St. John Health as President and CEO in addition to those duties." Maryland will have dual reporting responsibilities to the St. John Health Board of Trustees and to Chief Operating Officer Henkel of Ascension Health.



Dr. Patricia Maryland today

Patricia her Senior Year

"The Ministry Market Leaders model has been very successful in allowing us to recognize and work with the uniqueness of a given geographic market while moving forward with important Systemwide initiatives," Henkel said. Maryland has been serving as Ministry Market Leader for Michigan since September 15. She is one of nine such Ministry Market Leaders who guide Ascension Health operations throughout the System. In addition to their Ministry Market Leader responsibilities, all nine also serve as the head of a local Health Ministry. Prior to assuming her current role, Maryland served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of St. Vincent Health and President of St. Vincent Hospital and Health Services in Indianapolis, Ind. While at St. Vincent, Maryland gained national attention as Chairperson of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group.

This group was mandated by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. It held hearings across the nation to learn what Americans wanted in healthcare reform. The Group presented its recommendations to President Bush last fall. Before joining St.Vincent Health, Maryland was President of Sinai-Grace Hospital and Senior Vice President of the Detroit Medical Center from June 2001 – October 2003. In addition, she was Chief Operating Officer for Sinai-Grace Hospital and Detroit Medical Center from March 2001 – June 2001. Maryland was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for North Oakland Medical Centers from November 1996 – March 2001.

"I am honored to accept the position of President and CEO of St. John Health," said Dr. Maryland. "Since my return to Michigan I have been very impressed with the dedication of the team at St. John Health. I am excited to have the opportunity to work even more closely with the Board, physicians, associates, volunteers and Detroit community. St. John Health is the largest provider of inpatient care in Southeast Michigan and one of the largest employers in metro Detroit. St. John Health provides comprehensive prevention, primary care and advanced treatment programs with more than 125 medical centers and seven hospitals spanning five counties. Consistent with its mission to serve all people with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable, Ascension Health (www.ascensionhealth.org) is an innovative leader in transforming healthcare through patient-centered, holistic care of the highest clinical quality, and provided \$703.9 million in care of persons who are poor and community benefit last year. Ascension Health is the nation's largest Catholic and nonprofit health system, with more than 100,000 associates serving in 19 states and the District of Columbia.

Mini Reunion in Kansas City, Missouri

The Rheinland, a German restaurant in Independence, Missouri, was the location for a Berlin Brat Mini Reunion in August 2008.

Michael and I met Billy Jordan, his wife Barb, daughter Elizabeth, Elizabeth's boyfriend, Daniel, Caroline Trautner (Gray) and Steve Dussetschleger for dinner at the Rhineland Restaurant in Kansas City on August 23, 2008. Billy Jordan recommended the restaurant and Steve Dussetschleger is apparently a regular there since they knew exactly what he wanted to drink! LOL.

We closed the restaurant down talking and laughing over old memories and present day things and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Caroline had brought yearbooks and other memorabilia with her including a Duty Train ticket. The women all stuck with wine while the men sampled (and sampled some more) the restaurant's beer. We all enjoyed the German cuisine and the family atmosphere of the restaurant. Billy and his family headed home and Steve, Caroline, Michael and I stayed outside the restaurant talking and goofing around for about another 2 hours before leaving.

On August 26, Caroline invited Michael and I over to her house once Michael finished up his work at the convention center as we were heading back to Chicago the next morning. We drove over and were met by Caroline, her husband Gary, and Steve Dussetschleger. After a tour of Caroline's home to see all of her collectibles, we headed out to her patio. We didn't spend a lot of time talking about Berlin on this night, instead we just enjoyed the new friendships and shared stories of kids, jobs, travels, etc., and laughed - a lot!

We thoroughly enjoyed spending time with Billy, Caroline and Steve and look forward to doing it again next year when Michael is again in Kansas City. In the meantime, we're talking to Steve about him and his daughter joining us on a cruise next winter and hopefully Caroline and Gary will go too. Michael and I go every year. We had such a good time during our short visit that we are positive that they would be a blast to be on vacation with.



Lisa Tarr Fuse '78



Back row: Lisa (Tarr) Fuse '78 and Billy Jordan '76 Front row: Michael Fuse '79, Caroline (Trautner) Gray '76, Stephen Dussetschleger '76

Considering that this was basically an impromptu gathering, we had a wonderful time catching up on old times and hearing what everyone is up to now. The beer and wine flowed easily and a good time was had by all. We plan to "all" get together as time permits.

Lisa Tarr Fuse '78



Caroline Trautner (Gray) and Steve Dussetschleger with her Duty Train Ticket



Caroline (Trautner) Gray and her husband, Gary in their home

Lisa & Caroline

Billy Jordan's daughter Elizabeth, with Daniel (Elizabeth's boyfriend) on her left, his wife Barbara & Billy Jordan '76.



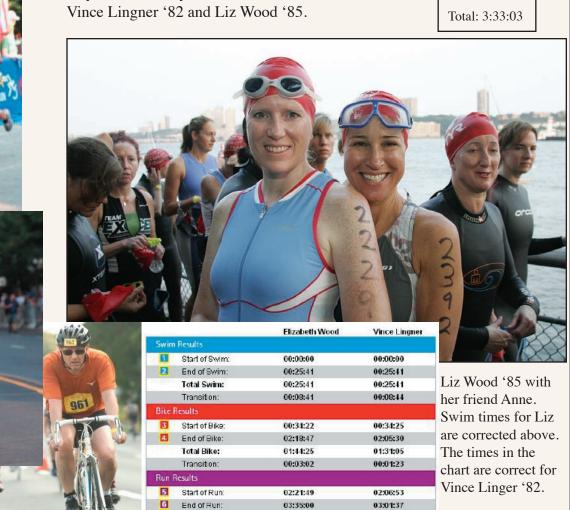
They Did It!

3,000 athletes from 50 states and 30 countries competed in the 8th annual Nautica New York City Triathlon July 20, 2008.....as did our own Vince Lingner '82 and Liz Wood '85.

Total Run:

Total Time:

Swim: 23:45 T1: 8:41 Bike: 1:44:26 T2: 3:02 Run: 1:13:11



01:13:11

03:35:00

00:54:44

03:01:37

MANY HAVE ASKED......WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO MRS. DEYOUNG????

1969

1970





Faculty 1968-1971

Mrs. DeYoung (the former Ms. Polly Croom), math teacher, cheerleading advisor and senior sponsor left BAHS after the '71 school year for another DoDDs school, London Central. Over the years apparently no one had heard from her...but many had asked. She was a mentor to many. Sandi (Hoosack) Trader '70 to the rescue. Sandi (Sam as she's now called) played detective and unearthed the following information:

Thanks Sandi!



Faculty London Central 2007

School Presents Musical Spoof

The Berlin American High School music and drama departments will present a production of the Broadway musical "Bye Bye Birdie" at the school April 4, 5 and 6 under the direction of David Hall and Miss Polly Croom.

"Bye Bye Birdie" is the story of Conrad Birdie, a rock and roll singer who is drafted into the Army, and the situations which encompass him.

The cast members of the musical comedy are: Molly McCord, Bob Gardener, Linn Harrison, Larry Fisher, Joanne Whittaker, Walter Townsend, Becky Philips and Nanci Sommers.



April 1968 Teaching in Berlin Polly Croom co-directs the Musical Drama "Bye Bye Birdie"

Teacher of the Year 2000

Mary Pauline De Young
United Kingdom District
A student of Ms. De Young said, "She has
not only intelligence, but wisdom enough to influence
every child that steps into her room." Polly's impact
on the educational environment of the school extends
beyond the classroom. She plays a strong leadership
role in the school and is looked upon with reverence
by the community. Her reward in teaching lies in her
students realizing, as they venture into the world, that
she has touched their lives. A teacher for 40 years,
Polly received her MA from Mercer University.

Polly DeYoung closes out her teaching career at London Central, a DoDDs school

Polly DeYoung's comments to students at the closing ceremonies of London Central as reported by Bryan Mitchell, Stars and Stripes European edition, Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Polly De Young, who taught at London Central from 1971 through 2005 and was described by a fellow teacher as the "Queen mother of London Central," reminded students that — despite the challenges that might lie ahead in new schools and new countries — London Central has prepared them well.

"We've been through a lot together: problems and protests, drawbacks and shutdowns," she said.

"We've been through peace, and we've been through war. And, like always, we'll get through with it and move on."

TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS THIS ONES FOR YOU!!!!



ON YOUR MARK.... Go! GoGoTEACHERS!

GoGoTeachers.com is a Home Listing Service and Global Teacher's Lounge Exclusively for Current and Past DoDDs/DoDEA Employees.

The purpose of GoGoTeachers.com is to CHAT with others, to TRAVEL around the world and SHARE new experiences with other trusted members in our Global Teacher's Lounge.

Founders, Mag McGinley and Vera Morgan currently teaching in Heidelberg, Germany and Vicenza, Italy.

Berlin Brats Alumni Association Newsletter

Search Ends with an....." "I LOVE YOU"



Susan Virgo holds papers that led to the discovery of her birth identity and the fact that she had nine siblings. She recently met with some of her newfound siblings during a reunion in Texas, one of whom was Berlin Brat

Ruchia "Roo" (Eargle) Moran '73

Story by Reporter-Herald/Christopher Stark

In the mid-1950s, 3-year-old Susan Virgo was adopted from a children's home in Georgia.

The little girl gained a new family, new opportunities and even a new name, and her life before the adoption quickly became nothing more than a few vague memories. It wasn't until after a death, some letters and a twist of fate that the Fort Collins woman uncovered the extent of her past. Recently, after more than half a century of separation, Virgo was reunited with siblings she had only dreamed of. "I cannot come down off this cloud, and I never will," she said. "I'm never going to let them go."

An Early Memory: Growing up an only child in Arizona, Virgo always knew she was adopted from somewhere in Georgia.

Her adoptive parents didn't share any information beyond that, and Virgo didn't pursue the past with any questions.

However, a few blurry memories always came back to her mind - memories from before her adoption.

Virgo remembered a little blond girl with curly hair who was always crying, who she would cradle and rock to sleep.

She remembered the name Melissa. And she remembered that when she cried, an older boy was the only one who could calm her down.

"I never questioned anything," the 55-year-old said. "I just knew there was family out there." It wasn't until she was married and began having children of her own that Virgo started asking her parents about her past. Her second child was sick, and Virgo wanted information about her birth-family's health.

However, her parents were very vague, she said, and her mother would only tell her two pieces of information.

To start, Susan Leslie wasn't her original name. Before she was adopted, her name was Melissa Elaine.

And she had at least two siblings.

An Unexpected Clue: Years went by and Virgo didn't know anything more about her past than what her mother revealed decades before. And up until their deaths, Virgo's parents never told her anything else. Yet when her father died in May, the story began to unravel itself when the woman cleaning out his home gave Virgo an unexpected phone call. "She said 'We found your adoption papers. Do you want them?" she remembered.

Surprised but ecstatic, Virgo said yes.

Soon, the papers arrived in her mailbox. They didn't lend much more information except for the name of the place she was adopted from: Georgia's United Methodist Children's Home. With the new clue in hand, Virgo had the option to try and uncover the truth about her past.

"I didn't know if I wanted to know — yet I did," she said.

One day on her lunch break, Virgo picked up the phone and called the children's home.

She said she used to live there and that she was trying to reconnect with her siblings.

The woman on the other end said she'd do what she could; there had been two fires in the home over the years, and some information was lost.

Yet a few weeks later, Virgo received all the information that was left in her file. Included in the paperwork were two letters addressed to Melissa Elaine Bass — both from her siblings trying to find her.

And in these letters Virgo discovered there weren't just two siblings to find — there were nine.

That night, Virgo dialed the two phone numbers on the letters written to her decades ago. However, both lines were disconnected.

Desperate to find answers, she asked her daughter, who lives in Denver, to go on the Internet to see what she could find.

Just an hour and a half later, she got a reply from her daughter. "She said 'Mom, I found your sister in Texas," Virgo remembered. "And her pictures are just like you."

Making Contact: About 1,000 miles away in Gladewater, Texas, Ruchia Moran was routinely checking her e-mail when she received a strange message. "It said 'You don't know me, but I think we might be related," she remembered it read. "My mom was born Melissa Elaine." "My mouth just fell open," Moran said. "I'm like 'No way, there's no way.' Melissa Elaine was the long-lost sister she'd been searching for. Immediately, Moran replied to her rediscovered niece and got Virgo's phone number. She called her that night, but Virgo missed the call. It took a few tries back and forth before the two were able to connect.

But both remember that first phone call. "It was talking to a stranger who was not a stranger. She's your flesh and blood," Virgo said.

Moran agreed, adding that they talked for two hours straight. "We caught



Ruchia "Roo" (Eargle) Moran '73

up on A to Z and back to J and picked up at L," she said. "We were all over the map — we had so much to say to each other."

And it was during their first conversation that the sisters realized Moran was indeed the little blond-haired girl Virgo remembered from long ago.

Uncovering the Past: The two, along with their other siblings, were taken away from their alcoholic parents and placed in the Georgia home. There were 10 Bass children all together: One died when he was young and another, they think, was given to live with other relatives. Moran, Virgo and a brother, now George Garrison, were adopted. Two brothers stayed with their birth-parents and the rest of the siblings grew up in the home.

Moran had reconnected with many of the seven who are still alive more than a decade ago. The group never stopped looking for their last lost sister. "We knew we had another sister out there," Moran said. "We never stopped looking for Melissa Elaine." However, because her name was changed, they never were able to find her — until she found them.

The Reunion: In early August, only three months after first uncovering her adoption papers, Virgo was on a plane to Texas to meet a few of her newfound siblings in person. When siblings Moran and Dale Vanderventer spotted their sister in the airport, the sister they hadn't seen for more than 50 years, neither of them could stop screaming. "We ran into each other in a huddle," Virgo said. "We wouldn't let go. We couldn't let go of each other." Later, Virgo was introduced to her brother, Larry Bass. Quickly they realized he was the one who had rocked her to sleep years before. The four spent a week together — most of the time simply talking and staring at one another. They'd even poke each other, Virgo said, to make sure it was real. And the family got along great, finishing each other's sentences and finding out they're all tenderhearted. "We didn't have any problem going 'I love you' to a stranger, to someone I'd never laid eyes on for half a century," Moran said with tears. "I knew they belonged to me and I belonged to them and it's always going to be that way. ... "We'd all been through so much, but it was OK. It was OK because we had each other." Today, the siblings stay in close contact and are planning an even larger family reunion in Georgia next March. They're also planning to write a book about their

"It took us 50-some years to get back together," Moran said. "From now on out, every minute is going to count."

Virgo agreed. "We all strongly believe there is a reason for everything," she said. "As bad as this place is, there's good — you just have to find it."

A Long-Awaited Opening,

Bringing Closure to Many From Families' Grief, a Symbol of Loss and Hope

Their Lives Were Shaped by Loss

By Nick Miroff Washington Post Staff Writer Friday, September 12, 2008

When the dedication ceremony for the Pentagon Memorial ended about 10:30 a.m. and the dignitaries had left in their motorcades, the families of Sept. 11 victims began filing into the park, searching for the steel-and-granite memorial benches with the names of their loved ones. They carried flowers, balloons and photographs, and soon a festive, almost celebratory mood began to take hold among a group long accustomed to spending the day in sadness.

It was the children who set the tone, really, treating the austere objects like playground equipment rather than representations of the dead. They ran among the rows of benches, playing with the water in the pools below and sliding down their smooth, arcing outlines, a stone's throw from the spot where American Airlines Flight 77 tore into the western side of the Pentagon seven years ago, killing 184.

Dean Taylor wasn't going to stop his children. He stood by as his adopted sons Dean, 8, and Luke, 6, climbed on the granite surface of their dead father's bench, digging in the nearby gravel with their hands and dipping them in the water coursing beneath it. They had already met the president and sat patiently through the 2 1/2 -hour dedication ceremony.

Now they were at the bench for Army Lt. Col. Kip Paul Taylor, Dean Taylor's younger brother, a man the boys were too young to remember. His death was the first of two hard truths they have had to face in their short lives, Taylor explained.

Two years after the Sept. 11 attacks, the boys' mother, Nancy Taylor, died of cancer, and Dean Taylor and his wife, Donna, adopted their nephews. The couple did not try to hide the truth about their biological parents from the boys, Taylor said, and the memorial site would help them come to terms with it.

"This will bring another level of closure for them," he said, looking around the site at the other families with children playing nearby. "It helps them close the gap. It's a place they can always come back to, even long after we're gone."



The article published here can be found at The Washington Post website.
There you are able to navigate a virtual tour of the Pentagon Memorial Park.

Many of you ask about Kip Taylor's sons and have contributed to the Granite Paver purchased with AOSHS in Kip's honor.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/09/11/ST2008091100581.html

Location of the bench for Army Lt. Col. Kip Paul Taylor "Berlin Brat, Class of '81"

The two-acre site is the nation's first major permanent Sept. 11 memorial, its 184 benches honoring each of the victims. Understated in its design, the site aims to tell the story of what happened Sept. 11 in symbolism, not words. Its benches are aligned along the path of Flight 77 and organized along a timeline.

They span from the youngest victim, 3-year-old Dana Falkenberg, to John D. Yamnicky Sr., 71, who was honored during the dedication, having survived two wars and five crashes as a Navy pilot, only to die as a passenger on Flight 77 when it hit the building where he worked.

Many of the families arrived at the Pentagon just after sunrise, in time for an 8 a.m. dedication ceremony held in the parking lot between the Pentagon and Interstate 395. A crowd of almost 20,000 invited guests filled bleachers and chairs that faced the memorial and a large stage with huge video monitors. In the background, a single three-story flag hung from the roof of the Pentagon as it did during the weeks and months after Sept. 11.

Separate commemorations were held in New York and Pennsylvania, and 2,998 U.S. flags were placed outside the dedication ceremony at the Pentagon, one for each of the day's victims. All 184 of the Pentagon victims' names were read at the dedication, interrupted only by a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. to mark the moment when the first plane hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center. "On the morning of September 11th, 2001, the unthinkable arrived on this spot. With this memorial we pay our respects to 184 souls; to the many who were injured; and to the families who still grieve," Gates said. "While no public display can make up for the injustice, or lessen the pain of these losses, the memorial we dedicate today binds all of America to the dead and their survivors. Your suffering and your solace, so personal to you, become the nation's as well."

As families gathered after the ceremony, Julie Beckman, who designed the memorial and oversaw its construction with her husband, Keith Kaseman, took in a scene she had been trying to picture for years. The couple had wondered how people would interact with the winglike, 14-foot, 1,100-pound objects, not sure if they would be physically embraced. Seeing the families sitting on them and the children playing, she was beaming.

"It's beautiful," she said.

Nearby, a family kneeled at the place where their loved one's name was engraved into the end of the steel bench, making a paper rubbing of the letters. All around, Beckman said, she was seeing "little acts of discovery, exploration and intimate moments."

"It's a place where old memories, and new memories, will happen," Beckman said.

Just a few rows away, a family in identical purple T-shirts with a large silkscreen picture of Amelia Fields milled around her bench, decorating it with flowers and balloons. Sept. 11, 2001, was Fields's 46th birthday, said her husband, William Fields, a Montclair resident. It was her second day at work at the Pentagon. "She would have been 53 today," he said. "Purple was her color -- she loved purple. And chocolate cake. . . . She was a wonderful wife and mother."

Fields, who recently retired from the Marine Corps, said he plans to go often to the memorial, which will be open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "Anytime I'm feeling depressed, this is where I'll come. It doesn't take all the pain away, but every time I come here, I'll be honoring her."

As he listened to the names of the victims and watched their faces appear and fade on the video monitor above the stage, tears streamed down John Yates's cheeks.

"I had 24 friends whose names were read," said Yates, a Fredericksburg resident who was working as a security manager for the Army when the plane hit the building. He sustained second- and third-degree burns over 38 percent of his body but survived and returned to work less than a year later at a location in Crystal City.

Soon he would return to work full time in the Pentagon, said Yates, a tall, powerful man whose mottled hands bear the scars of skin grafts. "I still get chills when I walk those halls," he said of the building.

There were many other ceremonial acts of tribute during the dedication. Eight rescue workers who were among the first responders to the attack stood at somber attention on the Pentagon roof as a bugler played taps. Far below, a bagpiper answered the musical elegy with the wail of "Amazing Grace." As he played, he walked among the rows of benches, each veiled by a blue cloth decorated with a small American flag.

Bush's remarks came near the end of the ceremony.

"For all our citizens, this memorial will be a reminder of the resilience of our spirit," he said during an eight-minute speech. "For future generations, this memorial will be a place of learning. The day will come when most Americans have no memory of Sept. 11. When they visit this memorial, they will learn the 21st century began with a great struggle between the forces of freedom and the forces of terror."

Relatives of the victims, who spearheaded the effort to design and build the memorial, said they hope its message would reach the rest of the nation and bring hope to the country's darkest observance.

"This is something to be uplifted about, a place people can find peace and healing," said James Laychak, president of the Pentagon Memorial Fund, whose younger brother David was killed in the Pentagon.

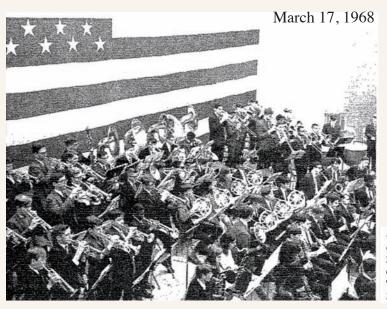
"We've turned a corner on 9/11, and we can say, 'Look what happens when we focus on a common goal and can do something good.'"

THE BERLING BOOKS BOOKS BERLING BOOKS BOOK

The Berlin Observer- "Another issue hits the streets." This saying has been echoed by countless Army journalists in Berlin. Even as far back as 1945. This year marks the 63nd anniversary of the "Observer", and looking back, many styles and formats have changed since the first issue, Dated July 28th, 1945, was published. Volume 1, Number 1 was a one-page affair that boasted one picture. Published by the Group Control Council, the information sheet was appropriately titled "The Grooper." Army journalists back then had to scrounge anything from pencils to printing paper as they collected news in war-torn Berlin. But the deadlines were met and soon "The Grooper" grew to a four-page paper. A brief run of issues as the "Berlin Sentinel" followed, and with the redesignation of the Group Control Council to the Office of Military Government of the United States, the paper was renamed the "OMGUS Observer" in April 1946. It was shortened to the "Berlin Observer" the following November. Never all things to all people, The BerlinObserver.com follows tradition by giving an account of American activities in the Divided City.







In a March Issue of the Berlin Observer 1968, the Berlin American High School Auditorium is host to a program of High School Bands entitled "Americana Hail." The article about the play "Bye Bye Birdie" at the High School shown on our faculty page was also in the same issue.

CONCLUDE PROGRAM—With the sound of "The Stars and Stripes Forever" ringing out, the combined concert bands of the Berlin American, Frankfurt American and General H. H. Arnold (Wiesbaden) high schools conclude their program of patriotic and concert music, "Americana Hail." The program, staged to benefit various projects of the three groups, took place in the Berlin American High School auditorium March 17.

Much of BAHS history was recorded in The Berlin Observer and Joe Morasco '75 a Library Associate (and our Berlin Brat archivist) at the University of West Virginia, has made it his project to create an archive on the web of past issues.

www.theberlinobserver.com "It is His Baby"

The story of Archiving the Berlin Observer by Joe Morasco '75 on the following page

My family was in Berlin from '55-'80, so we accumulated quite a few bits and pieces of the Observer over the years, and occasionally a complete issue, if one of the family was featured in it. About ten years ago, while searching thru my parents' house, I would come across these bits and pieces in drawers or shoe boxes...and started collecting them and any other Berlin ephemera and artifacts, in order to preserve them (we were throwing everything else out - my parents were packrats and saved nearly everything!) Around the same time, I was coming in contact with some of the alumni groups, so my interest in things from our days in Berlin was revived. I work in the West Virginia University Library, scanning and archiving materials, so I understood the importance of preserving this part of our history.

One of the first articles I found and put online was a clipping detailing the history of BAHS

http://www.theberlinobserver.com/BAHS History.htm -this was around the time when everybody was making webpages on the new www -so, I started scanning the articles I would find, and created a Berlin Observer page. At first I was using some of the free "home site" builders that Netscape, Homestead and Yahoo offered. But eventually as I unearthed more clippings, I had to get a little more organized. I finally bought the domain theberlinobserver.com and this was the format for a few years. http://www.theberlinobserver.com/BO frontpage.htm.

Thru my collaborations with Jeri, Cate and <u>BerlinBrats.org</u>, I realized that I needed to update and streamline the page, so about 5 years ago I started focusing on providing the complete issues in the current "archive project" http://www.theberlinobserver.com/archive/archive.html.

I began to scour the www for any sources of the Observer, but soon found that there is very little out there...The US Military History Museum in PA and the Allied Museum in Berlin are the only repositories I found.

I also obtained inter library loans of some of the later issues from various University and Historical Society Libraries, and occasionally a former Observer staffer or Berlin Vet will loan me issues as well.

I have extensive sophisticated scanning hardware and software available to me here in the library and would welcome any loans of complete issues to add to the archive. I recently completed scanning of some early 1945 and 46 Issues from a gentleman who maintains the http://www.usarmygermany.com/website.

I have listed my email below as contact info to any Brats who wish to loan their issues for this project.

Everything is returned to the owner. I generally recommend using UPS or Fed Ex so that the items will be tracked and delivered directly to me here at the library rather than USPS which will go thru the university mail system touching many hands before it finally reaches my desk. Turn around time can be as quick as a day or two. The scanner I use is designed for bound items up to 17X23, and scans from above the item down, so there is no pressing onto a glass plate. This minimizes any wear and tear on the bound volumes or newspaper.

The Observers sit face up, and after each scan I just turn the page...scan...turn the page...and so on... Very quick and easy.

We are keeping alive the memories of another ground zero which is often forgotten ... the icing on a cake long since baked....

Sincerely, Joe

I send out a yearly plea to all the contacts I have made over the years of former Berlin Observer staffers for loans of issues -it evidently was a custom to give each departing staffer a bound edition of issues covering the time worked on the paper, and I've had one loan of issues that way- but sadly, as the years go on these bound volumes are ending up in attics (or Barns!) to be thrown out, or put on EBAY, estate sales etc...

I would appreciate the loan of any issues you may have which will put more of the Observer online for researchers...or for just viewing online with your morning cup of coffee... **Everyone**, be assured that all items loaned for scanning are returned.

Hopefully we will be able to say "Another issue hits the web."

Joe Morasco
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Austin Gathering



Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83, Cheryl (Dearing) Starich '85

It started with a question almost 5 years ago. Cheryl (Dearing) Starich '85 and I (Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83) were sitting enjoying drinks and sights on the Riverwalk at a previous Brat Gathering in San Antonio in 2003: "Why don't we do this again-- in Austin?" Well, we came up with a better idea later that year-let's get the Texas Brats together again for a Christmas Festival in one of the oldest German settlements in Texas: Fredericksburg. So the Austin gathering idea was put on the back burner. Time passed, and life got busy; then we had to save up for the Berlin Reunion, and then recover from the reunion. So, in January of this year, I sent out an email asking if anyone would be interested in getting together in Austin. I had a great response and Cheryl Dearing volunteered to be my local coordinator since she lives in that area.

Long story short, Cheryl did a great job organizing venues for our event! We decided to set the date for Columbus Day weekend-- Oct. 9th-12th, and everyone could decide which day(s) they wanted to join us. On Friday night we met for dinner at the original County Line BBQ in an historic old speakeasy, perched atop a hill with an incredible 20 mile view of the Texas Hill Country.

The ribs were huge, and the waiters kept the food and drinks coming all evening-- for this was Texas-style 'All You Care to Eat' BBQ!



The Orbocks are wearing their Berlin 2006 Reunion Shirts Myrna (Medina) Orbock '76 & Greg Orbock '76

Friday Night at the County Line



Pictured: back row l to r: Carla (Gibbs) Gray '86,
Pleshetta Loftin'86, Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85, Tim Shaw '85,
Bryan Potyk '87, Myrna (Medina) Orbock '76;
second row: Crystena (Dearing) Schneider '85,
Leigh (Love) Roper '85, Glenn Roper (TAR) '82,
Charlotte (Gibbs) Talley '87, Tim Snow '85, Greg Orbock '76;
front row: Cheryl (Dearing) Starich '85, Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83,
Danny Franklin '85



Brats at county line:

left side of table: Charlotte (Gibbs) Talley '85, Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83, Michael Starich (spouse), Jimmy Schneider (spouse), Crystena (Dearing) Schneider '85; **right side of table:** Carla (Gibbs) Gray '86, Pleshetta Loftin '86, Cheryl (Dearing) Starich '85; Cliff Nelson '86



Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85, Tim Shaw '85,

UT vs. OU Gameday & Brat Party

Saturday afternoon, Cheryl graciously hosted a UT vs. OU Gameday & Brat Party in her home. We reminisced over yearbooks, ate, drank and made merry. The Longhorns won!!!





brats in kitchen:

l to r: Carla (Gibbs) Gray '86, Cheryl (Dearing) Starich '85, Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83, Bryan Potyk '87, Leigh (Love) Roper '85, Charlotte (Gibbs) Talley '87



80's ladies:

l to r: Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83, Cheryl (Dearing) Starich '85, Leigh (Love) Roper '85, Crystena (Dearing) Schneider '85, Pleshetta Loftin '86

fun with friends:

front: Myrna (Medina) Orbock '76, Greg Orbock '76, Jan Snow back I to r: Carla (Gibbs) Gray '86, Cheryl (Dearing) Starich '85, Charlotte (Gibbs) Talley '87, Bryan Potyk '87, Leigh (Love) Roper '85, Tim Snow '85, Ivan Lowe (spouse) Pleshetta Loftin '86

On Saturday evening we enjoyed a chartered cruise on Lady Bird Lake. After a celebratory Happy Birthday song to our own Elizabeth Wood '85, we pushed off from the Hyatt Regency boat dock on an authentic double-decked, paddle-wheel riverboat. This tour is touted as the famous Sunset Bat Cruise-- meaning we were able to watch the beautiful sunset and the bats fly out from Congress Ave. Bridge at dusk. Sticking with our Texas theme-- we indulged in a perennial favorite of Tex-Mex fare: fajitas, with all the trimmings. All in all, it was a magical evening with first-class food, captivating sights, and great conversation shared with friends. After we disembarked, we sat out on the trendy Hyatt Regency patio overlooking the lake. Most of us stayed up talking til past midnight-- we had planned to hit 6th Street for some live music, but we were enjoying our time on the patio too much to leave.

Drinks at the Hyatt:

l to r: Elizabeth Wood '85, Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85, Tim Shaw '85, Pleshetta Loftin '86, Charlotte (Gibbs) Talley '87, Carla (Gibbs) Gray '86, Cliff Nelson '86, Desiree Schneider (daughter of Crystena), Jimmy Schneider (spouse), Crystena (Dearing) Schneider '85, Leigh (Love) Roper '85, Glenn Roper (TAR) '82, Ryan & Sarah Roper, Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83



everyone enjoying their Tex-Mex fare: fajitas, with all the trimmings





Myrna (Medina) Orbock '76, Carla (Gibbs) Gray '86, Charlotte (Gibbs) Talley '87, Tim Snow '85, Jan Snow, Greg Orbock '76

Saturday Cruise



Tim Shaw '85, Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85, Elizabeth Wood '85, & James (Boyfriend)



Jeff (brat friend) & Cliff Nelson '86



Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 & Ivan (spouse)



Crystena (Dearing) Schneider '85 & Jimmy Schneider (spouse)



Starich Family- Cheryl (Dearing) Starich '85, Mike Starich (spouse), Jessica, John Michael, Nicholas



Leigh (Love) Roper '85, Glenn Roper (TAR) '82, Tim Shaw '85, Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85



Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83, Ivan Lowe (spouse), Nathan, Anastasia & Christian



Cheryl (Dearing) Starich '85 & Michael Starich



Bryan Potyk '87 & Teresa (spouse)



Greg Orbock '76 & Myrna (Medina) Orbock '76





Potyk Brunch Teresa Potyk (spouse), Jakob Potyk, Bryan Potyk '87



Brunch CrewCarla (Gibbs) Gray '86, Charlotte (Gibbs) Talley '87,
Pleshetta Loftin '86, Bryan Potyk '87



Brunch Bunch Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83, Elizabeth Wood '85, Cheryl (Dearing) Starich '85 & Mike Starich

2 Sets of Sisters:

l to r: Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83, Charlotte (Gibbs) Talley '87, Carla (Gibbs) Gray '86, Pleshetta Loftin '86

Sunday Brunch

On Sunday morning, those of us who remained, drove to the award-winning Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill for an incredible brunch. Moonshine is a converted 19th century saloon, famous for its abundant brunch menu. Because we had a group of 23, they graciously opened up their special Private Banquet Cottage to us-- called Sunday House (which just so happens to seat 24) -- even though we didn't have prior reservations! The food was incredible-next time we gather in Austin, this place will definitely be on the itinerary. Cool factoid: this cottage is the second oldest building in Austin.

What a wonderful time we had, meeting and making old and new friends! Thanks to all our Texas & adopted Texas Brat classmates who flew in or drove in to make this an incredible weekend we will not soon forget.

Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83

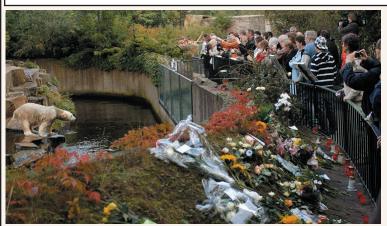
List of everyone from all days:

Bryan Potyk '87, Teresa & boys
Charlotte (Gibbs) Talley '87
Carla (Gibbs) Gray '86
Tim Shaw '85 & Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85
Elizabeth Wood '85 & James
Pleshetta Loftin '86
Cliff Nelson '86 & Jeff
Greg Orbock '76 & Myrna (Medina) Orbock '76
Danny Franklin '85
Tim Snow '85 & wife Jan
Leigh (Love) Roper '85, Glenn Roper (TAR) '82 & children
Darren Wade '83, wife Rose & daughters
Crytena (Dearing) Schneider '85, husband Jimmy & daughter
Cheryl (Dearing) Starich '85, husband Michael & children
Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83, husband Ivan & family

Total: 18 brats + 23 friends & family= 41 in all !!



Sunday Brunch Bunch Glenn Roper (TAR) '82, Leigh (Love) Roper '85, Sarah Roper, Jenni (Hewitt) Shaw '85, Tim Shaw '85



Berlin zookeeper Thomas Dörflein rose to worldwide fame along with his furry white charge, Knut the polar bear. News of Dörflein's sudden death on Sept. 22, 2008 triggered an outpouring of feeling from around the world. Here, visitors leave flowers and notes in Knut's enclosure.



"Knut will go on looking for his keeper for a few days," zoo official Heiner Klös told the "Bild" daily Wednesday. "The bear has noticed that someone is no longer there."



"All you need is..." patience and money. Twenty-eight years after the then completely unknown Beatles played their first gig in Hamburg, and seven years after the idea was born of honoring the band with a memorial square, the legendary mop tops are back in the city. The Beatles laid the foundation stone of their career in the early 1960s in the Hamburg neighborhood of St Pauli. It is there where five stainless steel sculptures now depict the musicians, doing what they did best. Instead of the more famous foursome of Paul, John, George and Ringo, the installation also features Stuart Sutcliffe, and a hybrid of Ringo Starr (who was not in Hamburg with the band) and his predecessor Pete Best (who was). The square, located in the middle of Hamburg's red light strip, is shaped like a giant vinyl record with a diameter of 95 feet. It stirs up memories of a time when hardly anyone knew the boys from Britain, and when the local music clubs were bustling with young musicians and beat bands on every stage. From London and English port city Liverpool came bands that played for hours, day by day and night by night.

In August of 1960 the Beatles from Liverpool played their first gig in Hamburg's Indra club. For 30 Deutschmarks a day each, they would play for four-and-a-half hours on weekdays and six hours on Saturdays, as Beatles expert Ulf Krüger writes in his books. At first, they had no success and moved on to the "Kaiserkeller" beat basement.

This is why the "Hamburg Sound" is credited for playing a vital

role in the development of beat music.

People on the newly inaugurated Beatles Square in Hamburg, Germany, 11 September 2008. With the Beatles Square, Hamburg recognises the British band that started its carreer in the music clubs of Hamburg. EPA/JENS RESSING

Hamburg Gets its Official Beatles Memorial at Last

Astrid Kirchherr is an old flame of Stuart Sutcliffe - and a one-time band photographer. She recalls her first meeting with the boys in the seedy Kaiserkeller in Krüger's book Beatles Guide Hamburg. "I was thunderstruck. One of the rockers on stage looked better than the rest and the music was simply mind-blowing." For two years, the Beatles played in clubs along Hamburg's Reeperbahn and Grosse Freiheit. After Indra and Kaiserkeller followed the Top Ten Club and Star-Club. "Slowly, the Beatles turned into local heroes. It didn't take long until the record industry took notice of the band and the already well-known Tony Sheridan," writes Krüger. Sheridan - now aged 68 - is an English rock and roll singer and songwriter who was a well-known figure in Hamburg's 1960's music scene. Together with Sheridan, the band recorded an album under the name of Beat Brothers in 1961. Anecdotes from these days are fondly remembered in Hamburg: Like the story that it was Kirchherr who gave her boyfriend "Stu" his first mop-top-haircut. Later, Harry's Salon on Hamburg's Davidstrasse was responsible for the band members' famous hairstyles. There is also the story of the outstanding bar tab that McCartney finally paid for during his visit in 1989 - interest included. Local radio station Oldie 95 came up with the idea to erect a memorial in honor of the group in 2001.

"It is about time that Hamburg commemorated this great band," said Mayor Ole von Beust during Thursday's inauguration. Directed at critics who complained about the length of time it took to happen, he said: "Better now than never."

The square that, when illuminated, looks like a spinning turntable, should symbolize the duty to open more opportunities for young musicians, said von Beust. "We have to do more for Hamburg's club scene," he added.

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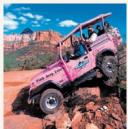
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"Reunion Committee"

Registration/Welcome Desk Joyce (Clark) Mallon '72 (& a host of shift volunteers)

Golf Outing Billy Jordan '76

Silent Auction/Raffle Kim (McLean) Hunt '77

Raffle Sales Kim, Doris (Sandoval) Dettmer '76 & Penny McLean '88

Gift Tables Billy Jordan '76, Kim (Graves) Bee '77 & Laura (Colangelo) Morris '79

Decorations Sandi "Sam" (Hoosack) Trader '70

The PX TBD

Brat Photographer Bryan Duckett '84

Graphic Brat Susie (Sams) O'Neill '85

WebBrat Cate Speer '85

'50's/'60's Hospitality Suite Hosted by Jim Branson '64 & Brenda '70's Hospitality Suite Hosted by Jim Wright '72 & Jackie

'80's/'90's Hospitality Suite TBD

DJ/Karaoke Sunny Sound South (Overseas Brats husband & wife team)

If you would like to "Volunteer" let us hear from YOU! Email: BerlinBrats@gmail.com

Introducing Berlin's Newest Streetcar

As Taken from 8/18/08 Article in Berlin Morgenpost By Deb "Brians" Clark, BAHS '74

Coming this fall to Berlin, boasting more room, easier access and climate-controlled, the new "Flexity" trams will make their debut.

These trains will replace the 200 antiquated models from the DDR-era still running throughout the eastern part of Berlin.

Longer, wider and rounder: These are the key differences of the new cars. Built by Bombadier in the famous Berlin "Bauhaus" style, the trains are up to



40 meters long compared with the old trains of 27 meters. The new trains are also 20 centimeters wider, and the advantage: They offer room for more passengers, and with double doors, also allows for easier, smoother entry. Generous multi-functional areas offer more room for baby carriages, wheelchairs, and bicycles. And last but not least: For comfortable temperatures, both the driver cabin and passenger cabins have heat and air conditioning! The most frequent, and most popular traveled lines now, M2, M4, M5 and M10, will serve as the test runs for the new trains. Should the test runs prove successful, it is expected that by 2011, 206 of the new trains will be put into circulation.

A note from Deb.......I still have family in Berlin. According to my cousin, these trains are circulating in the East only and not in West Berlin where we, as US citizens, were stationed. The western half of Berlin did away with all the former streetcar tracks many years ago. But......it seems like East Berlin is the hotspot now, and that's where the new trains are rolling out.

Berlin's Suburban Trains to Get Their Own Fragrance

Scent of an S-Bahn:

For the tens of thousands of commuters who rely on Berlin's crowded suburban trains the days of unpleasant early-morning smells - from stale alcohol through reminders of last night's dinner to overpowering perfumes - may soon be over, transport authorities said recently. S-Bahn Berlin, the city's metropolitan transport company, aimed to tackle the smells by introducing a special scent for the trains. Plans for the perfume are still in the initial stage, with aroma tests planned for November.

"The idea surfaced in an in-house ideas competition," S-Bahn spokesman Burkhard Ahlert said. "It remains to be seen if we will also invite external test sniffers to select our fragrance."

The Paris transport system, the Metro, has had its own scent since 1999, when Madeleine, smelling of lemons, oranges and lavender, was introduced. Some 1.5 tons of Madeleine, named after one of the stations and also a French pastry, are mixed into cleaning fluids and spread on station floors every month.

Upcoming Events:

29 Oct - 2 Nov 2008

9-12 July 2009

OSB Gathering 2008

Overseas Brats Gathering

2009 BERLIN Brats Reunion

BERLIN Regional

Hyatt Dulles Herndon, VA

Scottsdale, AZ

American Overseas School Historical Society

Contact: Scarlett Rehrig, President email: overseasschools@aoshs.org Website: www.aoshs.org

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Early 60's Chat Room

Contact: Jim Branson at jbranson01@hotmail.com

Brat Attack A Berlin Chat Room

By Invitation Only Contact: Janine Fisher at guitarlady61@yahoo.com

Newsletter Brat:

traecombs@gmail.com