

# DeAnne Taylor Tells About West Berlin People, Shops

Editor's note: The following excerpts are the second of a series of letters from DeAnne Taylor who is spending the summer with a family in West Berlin, Germany, under the auspices of the American Field Service. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. DeAnne Taylor, 1011 Winchester ave., Medford. In the following excerpts she tells of the people, the shops, and the customs of the people there as well as their views on the U.S. Presidential election.)

By DeAnne Taylor

West Berlin — Yesterday I met an AFS friend downtown at Amerika house. I'm getting pretty good at riding on buses and trains. Most of the buses are double deckers and ride like roller coasters. It takes a special talent to hang on to the rail when the bus is full. It's not too expensive to ride the bus. Thirty-five pfennings in the a.m., 40 in the afternoon, and 60 in the evening.

Amerika house is sponsored by the U.S. and is currently showing a display called the

"Art of Animation" by Walt Disney. It's interesting and starts out with the camera-man's first attempt at drawing moving figures. There is an American library, AFS office, and gallery for displays.

In the winter they have free concerts and shows. Hanni said she used to belong to a discussion group led by an American. I thought this a good idea because the kids learned about America through American sources. Two free tickets are sent to all the members whenever there is a performance.

I believe Amerika house is not only for West Berliners and Americans here but also for those people who come to West Berlin to work, etc. No money is charged and no questions asked. Everything is open to the public and from what I've seen, people flock here every day.

Whit, an AFS friend of mine, and I spent most of the afternoon walking up and down Berlin's main street, Kurfurstin Domn. I've never

seen anything like it. The sidewalks are wide and usually down the middle are individual glass cases with different stores' products in them. Some have shoes, jewelry, rugs, cosmetics, and almost anything you could imagine.

**Small Shops**  
I haven't seen too many large department stores. "Grande Magazines," Mrs. Scheele calls them. On both sides of the street there are small shops with interesting window displays. I like the way the clothing stores display the clothes. Sometimes they don't use models, but drape the clothes with accessories in a very effective manner. Prices seem to be about the same as ours.

I like the antique shops the best. They are full of exciting little treasures and very expensive. We found a shop that sold books in English and of course, we found Americans busily thumbing through their favorite books.

I notice so many different kinds of people on the streets. Some women look like

French models or movie stars while others are dressed in skin-tight jeans and baggy sweaters.

**Wear Sandals**  
Boys and men wear sandals but the shoes are usually suede with a pointed toe. They also wear short trench coats and carry umbrellas.

By the way, more days are rainy than clear since I've been over here. The only way I can distinguish an American from a Berliner is to listen to him. You just can't tell by looking at them. A lot of people have poodles or other kinds of dogs and they are fond of walking them on leashes.

Sundays everyone goes for a walk to his favorite little park or street. It's the custom here for the man to always walk on the lady's left. This is difficult to get used to at first.

Since tomorrow is the beginning of the school holiday, most people go on trips here in Berlin. It's not unusual for the teenagers to go to England, Denmark, etc. for the holidays. Most of them have been to some of the surrounding countries.

**Has Own Sign**  
I haven't walked on the Kurfurstin Domn (Kurfurstin Domn) at night, but I have ridden in a car and it's fabulous. Every little shop has its own colonial neon light and when they are seen together they look like a huge parade of electrical figures.

Ursula and I visited the Frinksturm which is called Berlin's Eiffel tower. There is a restaurant half-way up but it's very expensive. Later we walked to Tungsten, which is a large park. I took pictures. First sunny day for ages.

We have received a list of several different tours. We pick three out of seven. Some of the places are a brewery, movie house, castle, and an electrical plant.

Heide left for Lousanne near Geneva to start her study in French. The Scheeles will leave Berlin about Easter

time because of the situation here.

One day "Uchi" and I went with her choice group to a lake. We went by several lakes and the last one, Moorlake, was right next to Pottsdam, which is in East Germany.

They have divided the water, and heaven help the boat that goes over the line. There is a bridge crossing the water there and half of it is in East Germany and half in West Berlin. I'm still not used to being stopped abruptly by a sign saying: You are now leaving the American zone.

I have attended several German movies. One was 2 1/2 hours long in German, but I enjoyed it. It was in color and based on an old German fairy tale filmed in the Black woods of Germany. We also saw "East Eden" and "Suddenly Last Summer." I want to see "Porgy and Bess."

We have gone on several picnics (walking) in Greenwald, a forest here in Berlin. Their idea of a picnic isn't like ours. I get so lonesome for a good old American picnic.

I will tell you a little bit about the German table man-

ners. When they use a knife they put it in their right hand and use their fork turned over in their left. If they don't use a knife they use the fork in the right hand.

The music teacher comes to the house for the piano and violin lessons. Everything is taught in German, so I don't get too much out of it. The teacher often plays duets with the girls, and Ernst on his violin.

Something about the Scheeles: They are all dark except "Mull" (mother) whose hair is medium brown. Heide and Ursula are tall and about my size. Hannie is smaller and slim. "Vati" (father) has white hair. He is an engineer associated with

a Swedish firm that makes ball bearings.

The maid and I share the upstairs so we are quite good pals. She is 20 years old and speaks a little English and more French, so we manage. I've always heard that German girls tend to be fat, but it isn't so. I see as many slim ones as fat ones—and same at home.

**Nominations**  
We are interested in the Presidential nominations. The German people here seem to like Kennedy but fear that he is too young for such a job. They also seem to feel that Nixon would not be forceful enough in dealing with "Mr. K." thus impairing the position in West Berlin. It is not

difficult to understand their concern.

Today the maid the Scheeles had last year came for a visit. She is staying with the lady who does the garden work here every week. They both live in East Berlin. She had worked and lived here for over a year and then went home last August for the holidays. She didn't come back.

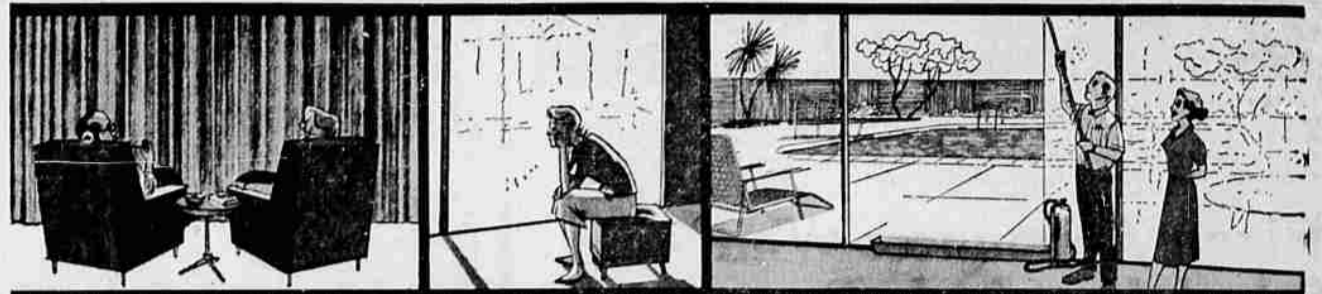
The East German police had taken her off the train and accused her of spying. She was sentenced to a year in prison, but her lawyer got her out at Christmas.

When I observe something like this, I remember exactly where I am and what the situation is.



**CANADIAN DOCTORS** — Four Canadian doctors confer on tarmac Friday night in Montreal before flying to the Congo. They are key parts of two teams each of a surgeon, physician specializing in tropical medicine, and three nurses. All are bilingual in English and French. Shown left to right are doctors Roger Paulin, Montreal; John A. Davidson, Ormstown, Que.; Philip A. Edwards, Montreal; and Jonathan C. Sinclair, Toronto. (UPI Telephoto)

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## Insurance Firms Pay Over \$50,000 In Back Taxes

Salem — Oregon insurance Commissioner V. Dean Musser said Friday his office has collected \$51,313 in 1959 back taxes from insurance firms by applying the state's 1947 Retaliatory Tax law.

Bills for 1958 back taxes went out this week to insurance companies, he said.

Until now, the law was not enforced because, Musser said, there were legal questions involved. But a legislative interim tax subcommittee headed by State Rep. Vernon Cook (D-Trousdale) this spring instructed Musser to proceed with the collections.

Musser said insurance companies involved put up "no real resistance" to the 1959 retaliatory billing. The collections for 1958 are not expected to be as much as that for last year. He said he plans to take it a year at a time and continue billing back to 1947.

Cook was critical of the fact that the collections have not been enforced before this.

## Electric Company Seeks Old Stock

Portland — Portland General Electric company has announced it is seeking about \$750 worth of old stock in circulation held by people unaware of its present worth. Deadline for turning in the stock was set at June 3, 1961, the company said.

Certain certificates of Portland Electric Power company, Pacific Northwest Public service company, and Portland Railway, Light and Power company, now defunct, can be exchanged for PGE common at market price plus accrued dividends, spokesmen said.

PGE officials have urged anyone who has the stocks to take immediate steps to arrange for their transfer. Advice on what documents are required to replace lost stock to legal heirs can be obtained from the trust department of the U. S. National Bank of Portland.

**PROBED BY MAGNET**  
Valparaiso, Ind. — Science has found a way to protect cows who think they are sword swallows and die of "hardware disease." The Indiana General corporation reports it has manufactured its 250,000th cow magnet for picking up nails, screws and balling wire as they pass through the cow's four stomachs.

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