

# Visit To Berlin Is Detailed By Former Rogue Valley Resident

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of letters from Dr. Donald Barnes, a former resident of Phoenix and son of Mrs. Cornelia Barnes, Phoenix. Dr. Barnes is coordinator of curriculum for the American Air Force schools in Europe and North Africa. He plans to return to the United States in August and will be on the staff at the University of New Mexico.)

Gross Gerau, Germany — It is Osterfest — the Easterhase has already visited and his good works are discovered. Our little German neighbor children go through precisely the same evolutions, complete with Easter eggs, the Easter bunny, and Easter tree adorned with its colored eggs, etc. Good Friday, Karfreitag, is a national holiday as is the Monday following Easter. Religious services are conducted on both Sunday and Monday.

We had what seemed to us to be a real venture in making the trip to Berlin, although in the course of things as they are presently operating, it was pretty routine. At any rate we will give you a little report.

I first had to make a trip to USAREUR (U. S. Army Europe) headquarters in Heidelberg to obtain "Clearance to Travel to Berlin" papers. These I secured. . . the American flag was printed in red, white and blue at the top. Following were statements in English, repeated exactly in Russian.

I then visited the Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof where a military travel office is maintained. Here I made reservations on what is loosely termed the "Berlin Night Express" for Tuesday night of the following week. On the appointed evening, Herr Kreidel, our landlord and neighbor, took us to the Gross Gerau Bahnhof where we boarded a train for Frankfurt, a trip of about 25 minutes. I installed my family in the American military waiting room there at the Bahnhof and then went to work securing papers, which by the way were taken from us and retained overnight on the train, and learned about baggage arrangements.

Huge Terminal At about 9 p.m., the public address system announced that the train was loading. We stepped out of the lounge into the huge area where the trains come and go — it looks like a building that houses dirigibles. 27 tracks lead into the building and dead end at the loading platforms. Our train on track number 15 was from the Deutsche Bundesbahn (German national railways) with "United States Army Military Transportation Corps" printed in large letters on the sides of the cars. Smartly dressed military police checked our tickets and then we were shown to our compartments by the porter, an employee of the Deutsche Bundesbahn. At 9:14 p.m. the train pulled out of the Bahnhof and we were on our way.

We traveled north and slightly east through Friedberg (Hessen), Marburg, and Kassel, among other towns, to Helmstedt, the checkpoint, arriving there at 3:20 a.m. There is a delay of about one hour during which time Russian military men board the train to check passports and clearance papers. Here also our Deutsche Bundesbahn engine is taken off and an East zone engine replaces it. We slept through most of the trip — our berths were most comfortable and there were no

## Khrushchev Plans Nationwide Speech

Moscow — (UPI) — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev will make a nationwide television and radio address to the Soviet people Friday on his trip to Bulgaria, it was announced today.

The premier's speech is expected to range over the same international questions covered in the joint Soviet-Bulgarian communiqué issued after Khrushchev's return here earlier this week.

In the communiqué, the two nations raised once again the threat to sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany if some settlement of the German question is not reached with the Western powers.

The communiqué also was highly critical of NATO, of American actions in Southeast Asia, and of alleged West German attempts to secure atomic weapons.

HARD BOILED Waxahachie, Tex. — (UPI) — Talk about a tough egg: Highway Patrolman K. C. Winn, investigating a trailer truck that overturned Wednesday, said he found one unbroken egg in its 29,000-pound cargo of hen fruit.

disturbances to awaken us other than the usual lurching of the train.

Drab Towns We arose about 6 a.m. to a sunshiny day, passed through several smaller towns — they were very drab, unexciting looking places compared to our towns in West Germany, with practically no autos in sight, either parked or moving on the streets — saw a military training base where the soldiers were out exercising, and stopped in Potsdam for some obscure reason (it was not listed as a regular stop on our schedule). This city really looked dull and uninteresting. We were sealed in our train all through this part of the trip, incidentally. The doors were secured by heavy links so that they could not be opened. We were forbidden to lean out the windows and were not permitted to take any pictures.

We pulled into the small military Bahnhof in Berlin at 7:50 a.m. and, surprisingly, were greeted by a military band playing at the debarcation point. . . a thing I had not observed since the days of the "Magic Carpet" at the close of World War II. We took a taxi to our hotel, the



SUMMER'S COMING—If spring comes, can summer be far behind? This is a question old mother nature answers by putting all of her fair children to work in the spring. This honey bee is busy gathering all the plants have to offer, and in turn the plant is spreading its seeds to insure reproduction. Many young birds are to be seen at this time of the year, learning to fly and causing much laughter by observers. (UPI)

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Hotel Fruhling Am Zoo, located on what is known as "Berlin's Great White Way" the Kurfuerstendamm Strasse. This was a pleasant little hotel, quite typically German, and obviously a family type affair as contrasted with the magnificent and ostentatious Berlin Hilton about five blocks away. We ate our breakfast in the small hotel restaurant and had occasion to practice our limited German, since almost nobody spoke English.

After a breakfast of good hot coffee, hard rolls, butter and jam, we decided to walk about the center of town and look. We spent the morning and early afternoon doing this and in making a few small purchases in an ultra-modern F. W. Woolworth store. Everything in it was of German, or at least European, manufacture.

Modernistic Buildings Many, many new apartment and business buildings of very modernistic design have been erected in the past few years. Some of these would stand by themselves with blocks of nothing but level ground around them — one could imagine the terrible destruction which the city sustained

during the war. Here and there throughout the center of the city we saw construction work going on — from our hotel window we could see a new street of four lanes being surfaced below us, a block away a huge gantry crane moved back and forth on its track shifting building materials which were to be used in constructing buildings to fill what, at the time, was a one block square that was completely level. Two blocks down Kurfuerstendamm from our hotel stood the ruins of the once beautiful Kaiser Wilhelm Cathedral — the central part sustaining what is left of the bell and clock tower remains. This is to be preserved as a memorial and a new, almost futuristic tower, stands on one side of the ruin while the new church is on the other.

The Kurfuerstendamm is lined with businesses interspersed with restaurants with connecting sidewalk cafes. We ate most of our meals at one of these, the Mampes Gute Stube, near the hotel where we could drink our beer, eat our weiner schnitzel, and watch the Berliners go about their business.

Sad Sight

Later that afternoon we took a guided tour of a part of West Berlin and saw much more construction going on. . . this time we saw blocks upon blocks of burned out buildings, jagged pieces of wall and building, great heaps of rubble, etc. A very sad sight, but throughout, new construction was under way.

We spent about an hour along the Wall, commencing in the southern American sector, and moving through the center, French, to the northern, British sector. You read about it, you hear it on the radio, you say to yourself, Now that is a surprising, an almost unbelievable thing that has been perpetrated, but this only sets the psychological stage, apparently, for the impact of first sight. You see the West German police dressed in blue uniforms and boots, the difference you note is that they have semi-automatic carbines slung to their backs, the West German soldiers dressed in green uniforms and also fully armed, the wall of varying height with mortar splash-

about carelessly (as some

index of the poor construction), but the thing that really shakes you is that not many feet away are fully armed Vopos staring across the wall in your direction — the knowledge that they actually shoot any countrymen attempting to escape contributes to the eerie sensations one has.

On the morning of our arrival, the West German police and the Vopos tangled at one section of the wall in a gas grenade battle which finally ended when the wind came up and blew the tear gas back on the Vopos.

Our bus stopped at various points next to the wall, allowing us to have a good look and to permit those carrying cameras to take pictures. Whenever we would aim our cameras at the Vopos, they would raise their binoculars and stare at something.

Check Point Charlie

We moved to Check Point Charlie, the American controlled entrance to East Berlin. American soldiers, West German police, and West German army men, all armed, moved about and checked on the few cars passing through just over the barrier were the Vopos and Russians.

We saw long lines of apartment houses all along the Wall which were vacated and the windows bricked up. At Brandenburg Gate we took pictures of the Russian War memorial that was erected after World War II and then was left just inside West Berlin when the wall was built. It was surrounded by barbed wire and two Russian soldiers were on guard. They used to have only one there until he defected to the West. Now there are two and they guard each other as well as the memorial!

Divided Cemetery

At one point where West Berliners had gathered in the past to signal their relatives on the other side, we saw cardboard walls about 100 yards behind the wall and 20 or 30 feet high which served to cut off all view from either side. It was in this section that we saw many East Berlin women and children sitting in the windows of their apartment houses looking out to the west and watching us. It was really hard to believe that they were not free to walk down the street and greet us

or go down to the corner store to buy much needed food, clothing, medical supplies, and other articles.

Our last stop was on Bernauer St. It was here that so many people attempted to jump to freedom. Here and there on the sidewalk were floral displays commemorating people that had missed the jump nets and died in the attempt. The wall along this portion had broken glass embedded in it and the apartment house windows were completely bricked up. At one point the wall cut through the middle of a cemetery. The people are not able to visit the half in the East Zone and so they place many floral displays against the wall next to the cemetery.

Early the next morning, Carol, Billy, and I took a taxi back to the Wall and went along it for quite a distance, taking pictures and looking. Billy managed to get a number of pieces of masonry from the wall as souvenirs. Later that morning we walked through the Berlin Zoo, only about two blocks from our hotel.

The people of West Berlin appeared to be less hurried, more concerned about their fellow men, and definitely more cordial to Auslanders such as we than their fellow countrymen in Western Germany. This is probably under-

standable in terms of a group under stress — they tend to turn to each other for help and support and to more easily tolerate outsiders they may feel are there to help them.

Army Officer In Charge

Thursday we reported to the military Bahnhof and boarded our train shortly after 6 p.m. It departed at 7:03, again pulled by an East Zone engine. As usual on this leg of the trip our cars were sealed and the military police moved through them quite frequently to assure that all was going well. The train always has a military commander, in this case an army first lieutenant, who is completely responsible for all aboard throughout the trip.

Our first regular stop was at Marienborn. We were there from 10:41 p.m. until 11:37. During this delay we watched four Russian soldiers patrolling up and down the tracks, each with a large submachine gun strapped to his back — just a suggestion of the things that go on in a police state. The next stop was Helmstedt checkpoint and then we were rolling free in West Germany (asleep, I should add). We pulled into Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof at 6:36 a.m. Friday, caught a southbound train at 6:53 and were back in Gross Gerau at about 7:20 a.m.

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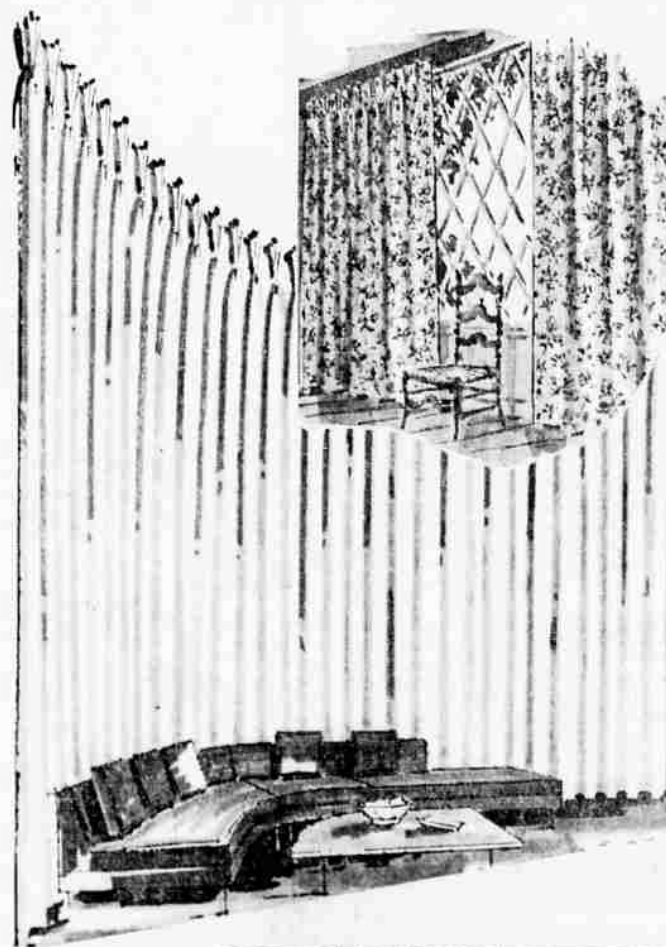
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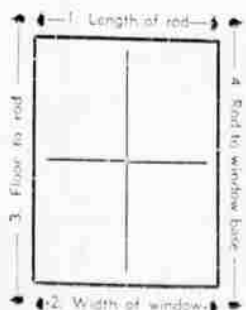


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