

**The  
Berlin Observer**  
Vol. 30, No. 50 U.S. Command, Berlin December 20, 1974

# Christkindl - Santa's mail center

"Christkindl"—Christ-child—is the name of a post office in Austria. And since the Christ-child is responsible for bringing gifts, like Father Christmas or Santa Claus in English-speaking countries, Austrian children send their list of wishes to the Christ-child, namely to Christkindl, from where they are forwarded to the respective parents or grandparents. This custom has become widely known outside Austria, and letters, gift parcels and Christmas cards now arrive from all over the world at the little post office close by the old iron-foundry town of Steyr, to be sent on to their destinations bearing the suitable postmark "Christkindl."

It is not by chance that there is a Christkindl in Austria; nor is it inappropriate that one of the world's loveliest carols should have been written by two Austrians—"Silent Night," which this year celebrates its 155th birthday on December 24th. For Christmas is a very special event in Austria, a family festivity, a festivity of faith and old traditions.

Traditional Christmas observances are not limited to the actual holidays, December 24th, 25th and 26th; in fact, they begin several weeks earlier, on the first Sunday in Advent, four Sundays before Christmas, when most families hang an Advent wreath in their living room or elsewhere in the house. The wreath is decorated with four candles, and each Sunday one more candle is lighted, while Advent songs and pre-Christmas carols are sung. This custom of "Advent singing" also takes place in churches or community halls; in addition to hymns and carols, the program includes little Christmas plays.

On the night of December 5th, St. Nicholas brings presents of sweets, fruit or bakery goods to Austrian children, placing them in the window. Sometimes he arrives in person—that is, in the person of a disguised uncle or



friend of the family—on the evening of the 5th, usually with "Krampus" in tow. The latter is a devil, and his job is to punish (or threaten to) naughty children. For centuries, the demons of winter, which according to ancient popular belief begin to make mischief in early December, have been represented by the same repulsive guise. In rural districts, several customs connected with the winter demons survive.

On December 5th in Mitterndorf (Styrian Salzkammergut) you can meet the "Strohschabmänner" and their escort of "Krampus" figures; behind the weird masks and coats of plaited straw are local farmboys. In many other villages, similar maskers' processions take place during the "Rauhnächste," the nights between Christmas Eve and Three Kings (January 6th).

To the great delight of Austrian children, the start of Advent also means the opening of a Christmas fair in practically every Austrian city and town. At the stalls, Christmas tree decorations, sweets and toys are sold. In Vienna, the "Christ-child fair," as it is called, has been going on since the Middle Ages, as the city records testify.

## \* Community Report \*

### DID YOU KNOW THAT:

In December 1963, a decision was made by the Allied Kommandatura, Berlin which authorized free transportation on BVG Bus and U-Bahn systems within the City of West Berlin to all uniformed allied military personnel.

This decision is still in force today and applies equally to the United States, British and French military forces. All military are requested to be in uniform in order to take advantage of this transportation service provided by the City of West Berlin. The uniform identifies military personnel to the conductors as members of the allied forces who are authorized free transportation. Sorry, dependents, civilian employees and soldiers in civilian clothing must pay the normal fares.

Military bus service is provided for the U. S. Berlin Community to the French and British PX's on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Consult your local bus schedule or Berlin Command telephone directory for times of departure and return.

Not all customs are time honored, but this does not make them less attractive. A new observance which has caught on quickly is the "entrance of the Christ-child" in Innsbruck. On the last Sunday before Christmas, the Christ-child, accompanied by shepherds, angels and children, walks through the streets of the Tyrolean capital while throngs of people look on.

On December 24th, Christmas Eve, the Advent wreath is replaced by the Christmas tree. Decorated with tinsel, angel-hair, sweets, apples, nuts and candles, a Christmas tree will be found in almost every Austrian home. And not only there: every hospital has one, the old people's homes and sanatoria, even the inmates of Austrian prisons have their lighted tree on Christmas Eve. It is an old tradition to have huge Christmas trees on the main squares of cities and towns too. The traveler driv-



A chapel near Steyr presents a beautiful winter scene. (Photo from Archiv Österr. Fremdenverkehrswerbung)

ing through Austria during the Christmas season will see them from far off, shining through the wintry night.

Under the Christmas tree the presents are heaped, and after each member of the family has opened his or hers, Christmas Eve supper is served. It is the custom throughout Austria to eat only fish on Christmas Eve, meat being eschewed until after Christmas matins (midnight mass). The traditional Christmas fish in Vienna is carp; farm families usually have only coffee before mass, but after mass they sit down to a festive dinner of smoked pork, ham and home-made Christmas cake.

## Christmastime throughout Italy

by Rosso Di San Secondo

Courtesy of the Italian National Tourist Office

As common with all the countries of the Christian world, Christmas is celebrated in Italy with great devotion by the whole country, with traditional customs that vary from one region to another. The most widespread artistic and religious custom throughout the country is the Crib; the physical representation of the Birth of the Child Jesus, with its stable, the Child in the manger surrounded by the ox and the ass, with Mary and St. Joseph.

There you see the shepherds, the simple folk—people who have come to offer all types of gifts to the Holy Family. The Crib is of genuine Italian origin. It was St. Francis of Assisi who thought of it during Christmas Eve while at Greccio, Umbria. During the second half of the 15th century, the Crib was already widely popular, but it had not yet reached its peak. In the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome there is part of an ancient Crib which has survived. It is the oldest one known to exist. From Tuscany, the tradition of the Crib spread down to Rome, the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily in particular. In the 18th century it was at the height of its popularity. In Naples, especially, great artists devoted themselves to designing Cribs, leaving their fame linked with the art of Crib building, the shape of which has taken various forms at different periods of time. During the second half of the 17th century and the early 18th, famous sculptors like Lorenzo Vaccaro and his pupil Bartolomeo Granucci started to use terracotta for the figures in the Crib, which was to be developed further by Carlo di Borbone with great religious fervor. The Crib was highly revered in Sicily, and the Cribs in Siracusa, Caltagirone and Trapani were to remain famous. But in the 18th century, the Crib was most widespread throughout Italy; then its popularity waned, but did not completely disappear, so that even to-

Like everywhere else in the Christian world, Christmas day is celebrated on December 25th in Austria; the 26th, St. Stephen's Day, is traditionally devoted to visiting relations. In Upper Austria December 28th—the feast of St. Thomas—is the day of a widespread custom called "hat-lifting," a gay rustic prophecy game in which the boys and girls try to find out their fate for the coming year. In Carinthia and Styria the same custom goes by the name of "slipper throwing." On New Year's Eve—called "Silvester" in Austria after the relevant saint—the custom of lead casting comes into its own. Just before midnight, lead is melted on a spoon and then, while the caster may pronounce a saying or a wish, dropped into cold water. From the bizarre shape of the solidified lead the person concerned attempts to read what fate has in store for him or her during the new year. Assured of a warm (and profitable) welcome, especially in the restaurants and night spots of Austria's towns where the new year is brought in uproariously, is the local chimney-sweep. Dressed all in black and covered with soot, he is a special source of good luck, all the more when he carries a pink piglet in a basket. It is an old Viennese tradition to gather by the thousands on St. Stephen's Square at midnight, where the new year is rung in by twelve resounding strokes of the enormous bell called "Pummerin," housed in the north tower of historic St. Stephen's Cathedral. There follows a general—and noisy—round of congratulations, with total strangers shaking hands or embracing, and toasts drunk on the spot from bottles and glasses produced from coat pockets or string bags.

Everywhere in Austria, church-bells ring at midnight on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. For Christmas matins the traditional nativity scenes are set up in most churches; many of them, especially in the Alpine villages of Tyrol and Salzburg, are centuries-old works of peasant master woodcarvers and are justly famous. These nativity scenes show the persons and animals in the stable Bethlehem, but often much more: a whole city or countryside as imagined by the craftsman from the story told in the Bible. Over the stable shines the star which guided the Wise Men from the Orient to Bethlehem. The Three Kings themselves—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar—have their day on January 6th when "star-singers" dressed as the Magi walk through the streets of villages and towns singing their songs and reciting their sayings. On their returns for gifts of Christmas cake or money for charity. On the evening of Three Kings, peasants take a special blessed piece of chalk and write on the doors of the house and stables the initials of the Wise Men separately by a cross; to the left is the number of the century, to the right the number of the year (19 K + M + B). This custom is observed throughout Austria; it and similar customs are for the purpose of protecting home and property in the year that has just begun. Once the Three Kings, its star-singers, bell-ringers' parades and the Three Kings dance which signals the start of Fasching are past, the sun begins once more to ascend. Spring is on the way.

day it has remained the most typical symbol of Christmas in Italy. One variation of the Crib is the Novena di Natale (Christmas Novena) in Sicily and Calabria. The Novena is composed of pictures of the Child Jesus, Mary and Joseph in small shrines on the walls of the streets. Nine days before Christmas, the shrines are decorated with a surrounding frame made of fresh myrtle and laurel branches, on which they hang seasonal fruit, such as oranges, lemons and medlar fruit. For the next nine days to represent the nine months which the Redeemer remained in his mother's womb, the men and women from the neighborhood come and kneel in the street in front of the shrine every night, and there they sing liturgical hymns. Then they recite the Rosary. The Novena is only found in the South of Italy, but it originated in Sicily where it is jealously preserved. The Novena Cribs are also built in the small homes.

In Rome, the Center of Christendom, there is an interesting international ceremony which is held in two churches, Ara Coeli and St. Andrea della Valle. In Ara Coeli, during the period between Christmas and the Epiphany, children from all over the world come to recite poems for the occasion in their own languages before the Child Jesus. In St. Andrea della Valle, immediately after Christmas, foreign children recite sermons dressed in their traditional costumes. This ceremonial is called "The Sermon of the Nations." As one would imagine, the congregation for this event is international.

In recent years, the Christmas tree has started to become widespread, particularly in Northern Italy. But it is still something foreign for most people. The Christmas tree, in Italy, does not have that Northern European air of religious austerity: here, it is a much more worldly affair, hanging with presents, lit by colored lanterns, having lost the solemn simplicity that it has in northern climates.



**A SHINING TREE OF HOPE**—Every Christmas since 1961, the Mayor of the District of Kreuzberg has presented a Christmas tree to the staff of Checkpoint Charlie, the Allied Checkpoint between East and West Berlin. The tree is a token of appreciation for the contribution the Allies have made in the defense of West Berlin. This year the ceremony took place on December 6 with gifts presented to the Allied Military Police on duty. The ceremony fosters improved public relations between the military and civilian community in Berlin. The light of the Christmas tree symbolizes freedom to West Berliners, and hope to East Berliners.

(Photo by Rich Bailey)

## From horseback and sleigh for xmas

Courtesy Scottish Tourist Board

Gift-giving at Christmas-time was a feature of the Roman Saturnalia. In later times it was associated with the bringing of gifts to the Infant Jesus by the Three Wise Men of the East.

According to an old tradition, the Christ-child wanders over the earth at this season, sometimes disguised as a beggar, bestowing gifts upon the children He meets; but more commonly the benefactor is the rosy-cheeked, white-bearded, genial old gentleman we know as Santa Claus.

The ancestry of Santa Claus is obscure. Some derive him from Odin, the Yule-father, who sped across the sky on horseback and dropped gifts as the children slept; others, from Melchior, one of the Three Wise Men of the East—the aged, white-bearded sage; others, again, from St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, as well as of sailors, merchants and travelers. The name Santa Claus (Dutch, Santa Klaus) is, of course, a corruption of St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, was a fourth-century Italian saint of great benevolence, who loved to do good by stealth. Hearing that the daughter of an impoverished Calabrian gentleman was in great distress because, for lack of a dowry, she was unable to marry the lover of her choice, he contrived to have a bag of gold dropped into her stocking as she slept; and that, says the legend, is why children all the world over hang up their stockings once a year in anticipation of Santa Claus' bounty.

St. Nicholas traveled from Southern Italy to Scotland by a long and devious route, passing first to Russia, where he acquired a flowing white beard and a sledge drawn by a reindeer; thence to Germany and Holland, where he became Santa Klaus. After the Reformation, the Feast of St. Nicholas was banned in Protestant countries. The Dutch, however, a seafaring nation, had long venerated him as the patron of their ships, and the tradition was preserved by Dutch settlers in the New World. By them it was passed to the British settlers in the eighteenth century, and in due course Santa Claus re-crossed the Atlantic (having discarded his episcopal robes for the garments with which we are all familiar) and finally reached our shores with Queen Victoria's Prince Consort.

"His more modern guise and traditional appearance as 'Santa Claus' requires some explanation," writes Mr. Lewis Spence; "In this he is usually portrayed as wearing a red, furred mantle and cap, along with top boots, and he rides in a sledge drawn by reindeer. In this respect he probably represents the Russian traveling merchant of the seventeenth century, who at Yuletide traveled through Finland with a cargo of presents loaded on a reindeer sleigh. Or it may be that he became confused with the idea of one of the old Teutonic present-giving deities who dwelt in the Arctic, the traditional land of glittering treasure, of golden light and silver ice. Some authorities have identified him with the gnomes of the underworld, the guardians of all precious things, and the

# A British Christmas

Courtesy British Tourist Authority

"A Merry Christmas!" — nowhere in the world is this time-honored greeting said with such feeling as in England, where Christmas is the greatest festival of the year. It is a time when the spirit of the "Merrie England" of old really comes to life.

On Christmas Eve, children hang up their stockings, leave optimistic notes for Father Christmas, and glance hopefully out of the window — looking not only for Father Christmas, but also for signs of snow. They always find their stockings filled in the morning; and sometimes they find it has snowed.

England has many beautiful traditional carols. In city streets and village lanes, choristers go from house to house, and inn to inn, singing such well-loved songs as "The Holly and the Ivy" and "God Rest you Merry Gentlemen," or in the north and west of England, "Here We Come a Wassailing."

Many of the old customs of the season tend to be retained in villages rather than towns, including Mumming Plays, ancient plays with several variations, usually handed down by word of mouth over the centuries. Some are specifically about Christmas, some with heroes such as St. George, and others are linked with obscure fertility rites. You may still be lucky enough to see one, with the players in strange traditional costumes. In some cases, the mummers visit inns and hotels in the area, presenting their play.

Also lost in the mists of the past is the original significance of making "kissing rings": green branches, decorated with candles and mistletoe, hung in a prominent place among the Christmas decorations. Mistletoe was sacred to the Druids long ago, but today the custom is for the men to coax the girl of their choice to stand beneath the "kissing ring".

Holly, Christmas crackers, roast turkey, mince pies, log fires, ale garlands hanging outside inns . . . despite these traditions and merry-making, Christmas in England is, of course, essentially a religious festival. Every church has special services with, in many cases, a bright-



rewarders of all good children, and his general physical appearance lends considerable force to such a theory, the ruddy garments and long white beard being characteristic of the dwarfish race dwelling in caverns and mountain fastnesses . . . That he may be summoned by calling him "up the chimney" associates him to a certain extent with other supernatural beings of a less respectable character, witches and the like, and his passage across the roofs in his strange equipage connects him in some degree with the planetary and atmospheric deities, especially the present-giving Norse goddess Freya, who drove through the air in a chariot drawn by cats, and who, on one occasion at least, revealed herself in bearded guise."

ly-lit Christmas tree on which gifts will be placed for hospitals and orphaned children.

Christmas trees became popular in Britain in the 19th century, the custom being introduced by Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. Today, most families have a small, decorated tree in their homes.

The most famous Christmas tree in Britain is erected in London's Trafalgar Square each December. Since 1947, the people of Oslo have sent a great tree from the Norwegian forests, to symbolize Norway's partnership with Britain in World War II.

A tree is the focal point for carol singing in most towns and cities, and crowds gather nightly in Trafalgar Square in the week before Christmas to join in the singing.

In London, the main hotels will serve either Christmas lunch or dinner for non-residents, which usually includes roast turkey with chestnut and sausage stuffing, served with bread sauce, roast potatoes and brussels sprouts, followed by Christmas pudding with brandy butter and mince-pies.

During the festive season, London's West End is bright with decorations and lights. The theatre season is in full swing, with several pantomimes — colorful mixtures of spectacles, comedy and music usually tenuously linked to a fairy tale — open for seasons ranging from two weeks to several months.



A family window shopping Christmas Eve in Piccadilly Circus. (Photo from the British Travel Association)

# Boxing Smoker a huge success

by Lou A. Kirkpatrick

Friday the 13th is traditionally a bad luck day, and for half of the contestants in Recreation Services Boxing Smoker it was just that. But wherever you find a loser you're bound to come across one or two winners.

The Sports Center gym held a near capacity turnout to witness the event. AYA showed its support by supplying hot dogs and the like. The group of fans was made up of Germans and Americans, children and adults, and several unidentified species.

The first fight of the night was an exhibition between Bobby Blue and Ray Savage. Both fighters are light middle weights and gave a fine example of the art of boxing.

The second exhibition fight was between the All-Army lightweight champ, Cleo Jackson of Louisville, Ky., and Maurice Johnson of Honolulu. Although Blue and Savage hold their own in a fight, if they had been slotted behind Jackson it would have been a tough act to follow.

Mike Taylor of Baltimore, Md., won a unanimous decision over Guadalupe Lopez from Chicago. The fight went the full three rounds before the bell rang ending the bout. Both fighters are from the welterweight division.

The light middleweight fighters came out for the next match. Robert Whetstone came face to face with Arthur Bush in a slugger that finished with Bush winning with all judges in his corner. Bush comes from Columbus, Miss., while Whetstone is of Thermotolis, Wyo.

Still in the light middleweight division, Tony Perez of El Paso, Tx. met up with Albert Broadnix from Waterloo, Miss. Perez, an experienced boxer, simply out classed Broadnix who had to concede to a TKO early in the second round. Perez had the upper hand without question the entire first round, backing Broadnix into the ropes several times. Broadnix is to be commended for the courage shown in getting into the ring in the first place.

Intermission gave the fighters and the spectators a rest and a chance to talk over the matches. Most of the fans in the stands headed for the goodies and beer being sold in the lobby. Typical scenes ensued of fight fans, (or football or baseball fans, etc.) milling around with a hot dog in each fist proclaiming the name of the best fighter for all to hear.

The light weight bout between Victor Kamai of Molo-kamal, Hawaii, and Dean Steeves of Minneapolis brought the crowd back to their seats. Kamai had his stuff all together and knew exactly what he was going to do with Steeves. After the first round the judges saw no reason to continue the fight, awarding a TKO in favor of the Hawaiian.

It was like the Civil War all over again as Yankee Al Pasek of Newington, Conn., took on Victor Shakeford of Douglasville, Ga. The battle was hard fought with both sides getting their lumps in and on. The third and final round came and went and so did the judges unanimous decision in favor of the Yank.

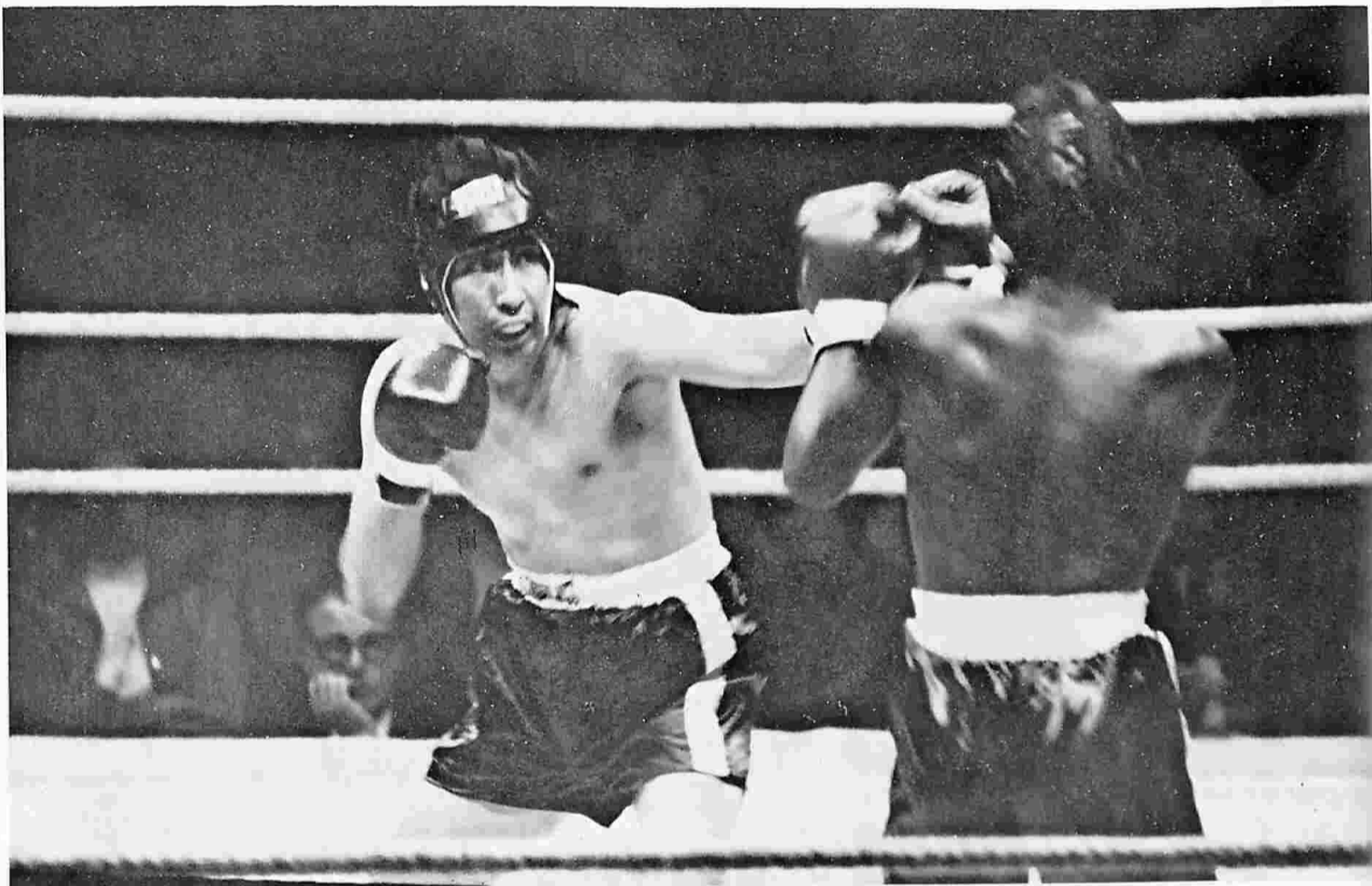
The last bout before the big exhibition match was also the only heavyweight fight of the nite and the biggest crowd pleaser. The modern day gladiators were Alexander Whiteplume from Pine Ridge, S. D., and Juan Alaniz of Laredo, Tx. At first glance one wondered if this was truly to be a boxing match or perhaps an amateur wrestling match ala' Saturday nite fights. In truth it was a little of both.

Whiteplume had all the spirit in the world but just couldn't keep from getting hit. The less explosive Alaniz let Whiteplume get the attention while he hammered away. Alaniz opened a cut over Whiteplume's eye in the first round, proceeding to bloody his nose. The crowd

saw the blood and immediately felt thirsty, as is the custom of boxing fans. Cheers and hosts could be heard from all sides as each section's favorite landed a good one on his opponent. Finally the cut over his eye and the profusely bleeding nose was enough to prove to all that the fight was as good as won. In a split decision the judges awarded the win to Alexander Whiteplume, blood and all.

The final match of the nite between Coach Hubert Carr and star pupil Juan Rios looked more like a ballet of fighters than the aggressive, if clumsy, bout between the heavyweights.

The first nite of boxing in Berlin was a huge success providing an enjoyable evening to all who attended. Boxing is likely to become a standard thing in the world of Berlin Sports.



GUADALUPE LOPEZ LANDS A good one smack-dab on the chin of Mike Taylor. Taylor and Lopez went three full rounds in a good fight. The judges gave the edge to Taylor

who won on a unanimous decision in Friday night's Boxing Smoker. (Photo by Lou A. Kirkpatrick)

## BAHS basketball team splits weekend

by Debbie Marmor

The BAHS basketball squads met some tough competition Friday and Saturday in Zweibruecken. The Zweibruecken Trojans were ready for the undefeated Cubs.

Friday night the Varsity squad was led to a 35-31 victory by Randy Smith with 21 points, after the Cubs trailed 11-9 at half-time. Saturday's game was exciting from beginning to end. The two teams went into the locker room tied 27-27. Neither team led by more than four points the entire second half of the game. They were tied again 51-51 with 30 seconds left in the game. Bob Todd broke away for a lay-up but was called on an offensive foul. The Trojans turned around and scored to win 53-51.

The J.V.'s competition was not overly tough. They won both games, Friday 44-34 and Saturday 64-38.

The girls ran into a bit of bad luck in Zweibruecken. They had a hard time adjusting to the harder backboards and different atmosphere in the gymnasium. They lost 40-22 and 32-16.

The Cubs will be hosting a Christmas tournament December 27, 28 and 29 at the high school. They will be playing the German National team the morning of Dec. 27. Nürnberg, Wiesbaden, Heidelberg, and Bonn will be taking part in the tournament Dec. 28 and 29.

The Cubs will then travel to Heidelberg to participate in a tournament between Class A and Class B schools. A school is classified as Class A or Class B according to the enrollment.

Come on out and watch the games at the Berlin American High School gymnasium during the Christmas holidays.

## sport watch

### AFN TV

**SUNDAY, December 22**  
 11:25 a.m. — World Football Birmingham vs Fla.  
 1:45 p.m. — CBS Golf  
 2:35 p.m. — College Football '74  
**MONDAY, December 23**  
 8 p.m. — Monday Night Football — Washington vs L.A.  
**SUNDAY, December 29**  
 12:35 p.m. — Football Dallas vs. D. C.  
 3 p.m. — Pre-game show Basketball  
 3:10 p.m. — Live CSC Berlin Braves vs Rhein/Main Rockets  
 5:00 p.m. — Boxing from the Olympic  
 6:00 p.m. — American Sports Man  
**JANUARY 1, 1975**  
 Rose Bowl Football Game at 11 p.m. — Orange Bowl, immediately after

### German events

**ICE HOCKEY**  
 At Eissporthalle in the back of Deutschlandhalle  
 December 22, 3 p.m. — Ice Hockey Berlin vs Düsseldorf  
 December 30, 7:30 p.m. — Ice Hockey Friendship Game  
 January 1, 5 p.m. — International Indoor Team Handball Tournament  
 January 2, 7:30 p.m. — Ice Hockey Friendship Game

### SOCCER

**FRIDAY, December 20, 7:30 p.m.** — Hertha B.S.C. vs Rot-Weiss Essen at OLYMPIC STADIUM

### HORSE RACES

Mariendorfer Damm 212-298  
 Trotting Races at the Mariendorfer Race Tracks are scheduled for Sunday, December 22, at 2 p.m.; Thursday, December 26, at 2 p.m. with December 30, 7:30 p.m. — Ice Hockey Friendship Game  
 Sunday, December 29, at 2 p.m.; and on Wednesday, January 1, at 2 p.m. with the International Race — the Glückauf-Preis.

## Kirk's Quirks

by Ms. Kirk

Judging by the attendance of the Boxing Smoker last Friday, I'd say that quite a few of the spectators would also be reading this column. If this is the case then I am taking for granted an interest in boxing. Well, now is the time to test your knowledge of the history pugilism. That's as good as any lead-in to this weeks trivia question which is: what happened in the world of boxing on Sept. 27 1950. I'll give one hint which is the event is in the heavyweight division, 'nuff said.

Response to last week's question was pretty good folks. my congratulations. Now if you can just keep up the good work we'll be doing fine. Seems not many people were plunged into utter despair with an incorrect answer, though four knowledgeable individuals did come up with the correct one. To refresh the memory of those of you who can only remember 20 years ago and not a week, last week's question was what was the score of 1955's Rose Bowl game between U.S.C. and Ohio State. The right answer was Ohio State 20, U.S.C. 7.

Roger L. Nickodam of CSC 3-6 came through again along with Richard Torres of Svc. Co. Sp. Trps, Kevin McNickle of the Sports Office and John Chicko from 42nd Engineers. Good Luck, and remember, ask for Ms. Kirk at 6193.

## The Berlin Observer

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# Desk Jockeys can get cold

by Michael McCollum

Last week many members of the command took part in a CPX (Command Post Exercise). When troops move out to the field they're usually the ones who do all the running around. And rightly so, for they're the ones who are being trained and observed to see how well they function under field conditions.

A CPX differs from this type of training in as much as it's the officers and staff personnel who are being observed while they work under field conditions. Now granted, being a "desk jockey" may not be the hardest job in the world, but it's not exactly easy to type the usual loads of administrative work when your fingers are numb from the cold.

Officers are responsible for the type of duties that they would normally perform under "battle" conditions. They have to provide supplies to imaginary troops and they have to react to aggressors that exist only on the boards that show where the imaginary bad guys are. The umpires decide what forces are going to attack the good guys and then limit the speed of the forces that react to the aggressors. In the meantime, other problems, such as re-supply of ammo, fuel, and food, loom rather large in the officers' mind.

The staff is graded on how rapidly and correctly they respond to each situation.

While you, "the troopie," are practicing in the field to advance on the enemy, don't forget—the men commanding you have been trained in how to get you there effectively and safely.



SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE. SSG Beulah Knox, G-1 Plans NCO, explains the situation to her boss CPT Warren Price, G-1 Plans Officer, during the Brigade CPX held last week. Knox stayed in the field with the rest of the staff

during the CPX and found that she enjoys working under field conditions. "I learned a tremendous amount of things," she said. "I'm finding what the Army is really all about." (Photo by Michael McCollum)

# Basketball rundown

by Kevin McNickle

Action was fast and furious in this week's Co. level basketball action.

At McNair: C/94 continued their unbeaten string with a 58-52 win over A, 2/6. The win gave C/94 a 3-0 record while giving A Co. its first loss with 2 wins.

The second game of the night saw HHC, 2/6 defeat B, 2/6 2-0 by forfeit. The easy victory gave HHC its first win in 3 outings.

The final game of the evening saw CSC, 2/6 remain tied for the league lead with a 47-34 trouncing of C, 2/6. Bolden led CSC with 13. CSC is now 3-0 while C Co. is 0-3.

In the Defender League Co F, 40th Armor continued their winning ways by nipping HHC, 3/6 by a score of 45-40. The Tankers pulled away from a 24-24 halftime deadlock to take the victory. 40th Armor now leads the league with a 2-0 record while HHC has a secure hold on the cellar with a 0-3 count.

B, 3/6 brought their record to 2-1 with a hard fought 55-53 victory over C, 3/6. Dunn had a season high of 26 points in a losing effort.

In Action at Andrews:

A, FSB swamped the MPs by a score of 68-48 in the opener. The second game of the night saw Service Co. best B, FSB by a score of 49-34.

The final game of the night saw 66th MI defeat Hospital 41-27. This was MI's first win of the year and also their first win in several seasons, since they have not been competing in recent years.

On Tuesday HHC, Sp Trps romped over 42nd Engineers by a score of 53-39. Rivers and Simmons had 19 and 14 respectively for the losers.

The second game of the night saw the MPs rout the Independents by a score of 73-48. Patterson and Wilson each had 12 points to lead a balanced MP attack, while Hubert Carr had 19 for the losers.

The Tuesday nightcap saw Service Co. stomp H & S, FSB by a score of 63-35. The win raises Service to 4-0 while H & S is now winless in 3 games.

Thursday's opener saw A, FSB run Hospital into the ground as the Tigers won by a score of 76-35. A Co. was led by Saindon with 21, Jones with 18 and Hintz with 15 while Robinson had 11 for the losers.

B, FSB bested 66th MI 50-41. Mike Fisher and Tom Goode split 32 points to lead the attack.

In the night's final the MP Co. defeated 592nd Signal by a score of 51-45. The win gave the MPs a 3-2 mark while the loss evened Signal's slate at 2-2.

At the sports center: CSC, 4/6 blitzed HHC, 4/6 in All the Way Battalion Action. Clark led CSC with 23 while the CSC defense held HHC to just 1 point in the first 10 minutes of the second half.

The evening's second game was a lot closer as A, 4/6 led by Harrison's 12 second half points, nipped C, 4/6 65-56. C, 4/6 led 33-29 at the half but couldn't hold on. C Company's Allen had 24 points to lead all scorers.



MAJOR GENERAL SAM S. WALKER, United States Commander of Berlin, looks over some of the Greek literature presented to him on December 4 by Efstathios Mauroudis, First Secretary of the Greek Military Mission in Berlin. Colonel

Herbert H. Ray, Chief of Staff, observes the presentation. The Greek secretary presented approximately 100 volumes of Greek literature to the Command. (Photo by Rich Bailey)

## Christmas Bowlers tournament

The Berlin Bowling Center is sponsoring a 9-Pin No-Tap Christmas Bowling Tournament December 23 and 24 from noon till 6 p.m. The events will be singles and doubles. The tournament will be open to all active military and Department of the Army civilians. Participants are not required to be members of American Bowling Congress or the Women's International Bowling Congress.

The prize fund will be returned to the bowler 100%, and the prize distribution will be one prize per seven entries. A drawing will be conducted by the Bowling Center each day of the tournament for a prize of some bowling equipment.

## Two found guilty in 'haircut' cases

A military special court this week found two Berlin Brigade soldiers guilty of disobeying orders to get haircuts. Four others are either undergoing or awaiting trial on similar charges.

Specialist 4 Richard H. Shadion, of 592nd Signal Company, was found guilty of violation of Article 90 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which pertains to disobeying a lawful order. He was sentenced Wednesday to 60 days confinement at hard labor, forfeiture of \$100 per month for three months, and reduction to E-1.

Private (E-2) Robert M. Nuchow of Battery "C", 94th Artillery, was earlier found guilty of the same charge but sentencing was delayed and had not been announced at OBSERVER press time.



# Christmas and New Year's are one

By Mikhail Andrasha

Photo courtesy of the Novosti Press Agency

At the stroke of twelve on New Year's Eve the whole multimillion polyglot population of the Soviet Union ushers out the old year. Since our territory spans eleven time zones, we welcome in the New Year eleven times. Muscovites or Leningraders lurching at two o'clock in the afternoon are still busy with plans for the party that night, but on distant Chukotka, glasses are already being lifted to a "Happy New Year!"

The Soviet New Year's celebration is still very young. The holiday has inherited something from Christmas and something from the pagan rites of the ancient Slavs, who worshipped the Sun God. New Year's Eve is mostly a family occasion and for parties with close friends. In ancient times the Russian New Year was celebrated in March, at the time of the spring equinox. This tradition was followed to the middle of the fourteenth century.

## Wales at Christmastime

The celebration of Christmastide, Y Gwyliau, has been observed throughout Europe from the earliest times. Primitive man had noticed that the lengthening of the days and the shortening of the long winter nights began at this time after the winter solstice. This change in the skies was invested with a sacred significance, probably associated with the worship of the sun. Each year after the winter solstice there was a heartening promise of the return of spring and summer, and of the rebirth of plant life. The end of the critical winter season, though distant, was now certain.

Christmas in Wales, as in Scotland, was at one time out-shadowed by those festivities held to celebrate the New Year. In the middle of the nineteenth century, according to a north Pembrokeshire account, Christmas Day marked the beginning of a three-week period of holidays (Y Gwyliau) during which farm work was suspended. As a symbol of this the plough was carried into the home and placed under the table in the room where the meals were eaten (rwm ford). Christmas Day itself was marked only by a sumptuous dinner of goose, beef and pudding, at the large farms in each neighbourhood to which all the other farmers and cottagers were invited. As for the rest of the holiday period till Epiphany, parties of men went about from house to house and were invited into the rwm ford, where they sat around the table, regaling themselves with beer, which was always kept warm in small neat brass pans in every farm house ready for callers. But the peculiar custom which existed amongst these holiday-makers was that they always wetted the plough which lay dormant under the table with their beer before partaking of it themselves, thus indicating that though they had dispensed with its service for the time, they had not forgotten it, and that it would again, in due course, be brought out on the green sward and turn it.

In many parts of Wales, however, Christmas meant rising early (or staying up overnight) to attend the plygain service at the parish church. This custom, formerly

Later, with time reckoned from the "creation of the world," the New Year was rung in on the first of September. A decree of Peter the Great established an official date for the New Year, and since 1700 it has been celebrated on the first of January.

The Russian New Year's feast follows a pleasant custom of the ancient Slavs — that guests must be wined and dined to the bursting point. The groaning board is no figure of speech; it is piled high with delicacies that testify to the culinary talents of the hostess, with pickled and marinated mushrooms and vegetables, preserved fruit and berries, and jams and jellies without which no holiday is complete. The host is there to nudge your elbow, to help you lift "just another spoonful."

By the end of December the ancient Slavs had finished their winter labors and had begun to prepare for the spring. So that the winter holiday was one of their gayest festivals. When old Russia converted to Christianity in

the year 988, the winter festival merged with Christmas.

As it neared, the Slavs would turn their houses inside out, cleaning every nook and cranny, family that it was, and drank well on the feast days, they believed, would have an abundance of food and drink the rest of the year.

They would sing special feast-day songs, kolyada cards addressed to those whom they wished well. Farmers went merrily from house to house. During the festival the Slavs wore an animal skin over his shoulders so the "evil powers" would be unable to identify and disease would therefore not visit his home nor tillage his cattle. And, of course, no winter feast day the yuletide, could do without fortune telling.

We still find traces of those old games and charms. New Year's Eve Russian village streets are alive with laughter and fun. Young people in disguise run from house to house singing Limericks, congratulating inhabitants and wishing them happiness in the new year. Children are driven around the village in troikas. This is the time of year when the farmer slaughters a fat pig, a calf or a lamb. He cooks, smokes, bakes, and carries home-brewed fruit liqueurs and cordials up from the cellar.

In 1935, on the insistence of the youth organization the ban on New Year's celebration was lifted. The first with its traditional Grandfather Frost and Snow Maiden gifts and merriment, was officially returned to children and grownups alike. A well-informed public sees no conflict between Soviet culture and the legacy of the past.

Millions of Soviet children, awakening on New Year's Day, find gifts under their festive trees. Who put them there? Mommy? Daddy? Grandfather? Grandmother?

"Grandfather Frost brought them for you during the night!"

Modern children, many of their former pastimes replaced by television programs, are not overly gullible. And yet the belief in Grandfather Frost and his assistant Snow Maiden, who go from house to house through the night and bring gifts to everybody, is as alive in the child's mind as his belief in spaceships.

The New Year's holidays coincide with the school winter vacation that ends January 10. A whole commercial entertainment industry blossoms for the occasion. Fir trees are shipped before-hand from the northern forests to all the southern towns, for New Year's festivities are unthinkable without a tree. Factories and commercial firms prepare millions of bright boxes and packages of sweets.

Various organizations, institutions and industrial enterprises, or, rather, their trade union organizations, invite professional actors to play the parts of Grandfather Frost and Snow Maiden. They send them to the homes of their workers, so that early in the morning a child opens the door on a living Grandfather Frost and a real Snow Maiden with thick, long braids. After they have introduced themselves and all the congratulations and presents have been delivered, the small host is asked to sing a song or recite a poem. Fairy-tale chariots drive through the streets of our cities during the winter holidays carrying Grandfather Frosts and Snow Maidens.

# Holland's birth of Santa Claus

Courtesy Niederländische Fremdenverkehrszentrale

In the early days of December, when Holland's marine climate is at its foggy, drizzling worst, the Dutchman will look out of his window and happily announce, "It's real St. Nicholas weather!" Thus he welcomes a delightful annual event which for centuries has been uniquely Dutch and Flemish—the Feast of Sinterklaas.

True, St. Nicholas' Calendar Day, December 6th, is observed in most Roman Catholic countries, primarily as a feast for small children. But only in the Low Countries—and especially in the Netherlands—is the eve of his festival celebrated nationwide by young and old, rich and poor, Christian and Jew alike, and without any religious overtones. Although Sinterklaas is always presented in the vestments of the bishop he once was, his status as a Saint, duly canonized by the Church, has played no part in the Dutch mind for centuries. Rather, he is a kind of benevolent Superman, whose feast on the evening of December 5th is the merriest and most beguiling event of the Dutch year, when Hollanders exchange gifts and poke fun at each other to their hearts' content.

Why is Santa Claus in this form the exclusive property of the Dutch-speaking peoples? Because of tradition. It just grew this way in the days before international communications, when the people of any one country had plenty of time to gradually develop, enrich and hand down their own legends and customs, whether based on fact or fantasy. It so happens that the legend of St. Nicholas is based on historical fact. He did exist. Superman or not, he was born and he died like the rest of us. He lived from 271 A.D. to December 6, 342 or 343. His fourth-century tomb in the town of Myra, Asia Minor, has only recently been dug up by archaeologists. Born of a wealthy family, Nicholas was brought up as a devout Christian. When his parents died in an epidemic, he distributed his fortune among the poor and entered the priesthood. Later he became Archbishop of Myra, a town not far from his home, and it is from here that the fame of his good deeds and saintly ways began to spread across the Mediterranean. He must have been an extraordinary man. For no sooner had he been buried than the line between fact and fantasy blurred and a fabulous series of legends and miracles sprang into being. The Good Bishop of Myra becalmed the stormy seas when desperate sailors invoked his name; prison walls crumbled as soon as victims of persecution prayed to him. He saved small children from the butcher's knife and dropped dowries into the shoes of penniless maidens. In due course, Saint Nicholas became the patron saint of sailor merchants and, especially of children.

That St. Nicholas' influence was especially strong in the Low Countries is primarily due to his role as patron of merchants and sailors; the area's geography had predisposed it to trade and navigation. But once established,

his fame as the benefactor of children took precedence. In the 14th century, choir boys of St. Nicholas Churches were given some money and the day off on December 6th. Somewhat later, the pupils of convent schools would be rewarded or punished by a teacher—monk disguised as the venerable bishop—just as he is still presented today with his long white beard, his red mantle and mitre, and his golden crosier. Quite likely these very same school boys introduced St. Nicholas in their homes, for gradually his name, now corrupted to Sinterklaas, became a household word, his festival a nationwide event and his image the popular symbol of a stern yet benevolent moralist. In due time, Sinterklaas came accompanied by his Moorish servant Piete (Pete), a grinning fellow with a birch rod, whose sack full of goodies, when emptied, is large enough to carry away any naughty children.

By the 17th century, the Feast of Sinterklaas was so firmly established that famous Dutch painters and writers were inspired by it, and there are countless folksongs on the subject. It was at this time, too, that the Dutch settled in the New World where, among other customs, they introduced their venerable Sinterklaas. It isn't their fault,



Dutch Santa talks with children. (Photo from Holland)

to be sure, that his image later merged with that of fat and jolly Father Christmas of British fame, who was feted in the same month. Since that time, and aided and abetted by other ethnic influences, the American Santa Claus has developed strictly on his own to the point where he lives at the North Pole and drives a team of reindeer. All that remains of his Dutch phase is his name: Santa Claus, a direct derivation of Sinterklaas.

Essentially the Dutch feel about Christmas much as Americans do about Thanksgiving: a season of peace and goodwill best observed at home. Its significance to the individual may be religious or traditional, but it is cherished by all as a time of serenity.

Christmas in the Netherlands is rather more "happy" than "merry"; gifts and gaiety belong to the domain of Sinterklaas, it is felt. As a consequence, the Christmas rush, proverbial elsewhere, is not nearly as hectic in Holland. Only the housewife has her hands full with the same preparations her sisters abroad have lined up; but she doesn't have to shop for gifts and wrap them. But the glow of Christmas is all around. The skies ring with carols from chimes and carillons; the fragrance of fir trees and boughs fills the air. The florists and the pastry shops display a wealth and variety that has no equal anywhere. Towns and villages sparkle with the lights of candles and tinsel, with colorful splashes of reds and greens. The sense of awe and wonder is almost tangible; the mood is hallowed, yet far from solemn.

The tree with its real candles is first lit on Christmas Eve. Churchgoers may attend a service afterward, or in the morning of First Christmas Day. Christmas dinner is served in the evening, when families gather around their candle-lit tables, set with accents of red, green and white. Roast hare, venison or goose were perennial favorites until lately, when Holland began to raise turkeys on a large scale. A flaming pudding or a bright red cold one are traditional desserts.

On Second Christmas Day in churches and auditoriums throughout the country, amateur choral and instrumental groups give their annual Christmas performance, as do many professional ensembles. But in the rural east of the Netherlands, there is another kind of music making—the one Yuletide custom of ancient times that has survived. Known as Midwinter Horn Blowing, it is begun on the first Advent Sunday and repeated daily until Christmas Eve.

Here in the still of dusk, the farmers blow on long, slightly crooked horns made of hollowed limbs of elder trees, which they hold above their wells to amplify the weird sound. It is answered from farm to farm over the wide, cold landscape—a reciprocal announcement of the coming of Christ. On First Christmas Day the horns are stilled; Christ has come to stay among the people.

## Yuletide in Finland

Most children of the world believe that Santa Claus, or St. Nick, as some know him, lives with his reindeer in the cold of Finnish Lapland at the Arctic Circle. What they don't know is that Christmas in Finland, glistening with spanking white snow, is actually a warm time. Warm, that is, with emotion and spiritual feeling. It is the time of the year that families show togetherness and a time for happy

feasting. Family members visit each other but friends are not included. Their visits are reserved for Christmas Day. It is December 24, Christmas Eve, that marks the reunion for relatives.

Serious as the holiday is treated, it has begun to show some signs of the commercialism with which Christmas is tinged in America. As early as December 1, streets in the main business sections of Finnish

towns and cities, especially in the capital of Helsinki, are spruced up with colored lights and ornaments. Shop windows sparkle with tinsel and other trimmings. Carols are sung in the streets by students and older folk, and a Father Christmas or two can be seen taking orders from youngsters out shopping with their parents. Small office parties begin and continue until the big day.

Aside from this frivolity, there are more reverent traditions observed by all of the people of Finland. Part of the annual Christmas Eve program calls for a visit to the local cemetery to place lighted candles on the graves of departed family members. At the Helsinki War Cemetery the thousands of lighted graves is a gripping and impressive sight.

There would be no Christmas eve dinner without the sauna. This 2,000 year old tradition is part of the Yuletide ritual and the sauna is taken before the holiday meal, whether one lives in the country or city.

The Christmas dinner menu is almost the same in every home. A mixed herring salad is usually the favored appetizer, though tradition dictates that "Lipeakala" be the first course. This is lye-soaked fish, usually cod, soaked in brine and the ashes of birchwood, and covered with lots of white sauce and pepper. The idea is not to taste the fish, for obvious reasons — its flavor.

Ham, rather than the American tradition of turkey, is the main course of the meal, with a back-up casserole of chopped

liver, potatoes and vegetables. The ham is generally rolled in butter and bread crumbs and baked. In the country, sausages stuffed with barley are also included.

Porridge is a must on the Yuletide bill of fare. This is a form of rice pudding, which has a single almond hidden in it. Folklore has it that whoever receives the portion with the nut in it will be married within the coming year.

Animals are not forgotten on Christmas Eve, either. Cattle and horses are fed special portions of bread and oats.

After dinner is when Father Christmas shows up to deliver presents and partake of dessert, usually fruits and cookies. If there are any children in the household, they gather in a circle around him and sing carols. Unlike custom in America, the father of the house does not play the role of Santa. In Finland, a relative or friend will don the costume and beard and distribute presents.

One tradition is adhered to strictly at Christmas and the nation's citizens are well aware of it. Judges make sure that sentences meted out for any crimes committed during the holiday are much more severe than ordinarily.

Most Finnish people are religious, and therefore church-goers on Christmas. The houses of worship are packed. Whenever possible, families like to arrive by sleigh. It is said that the man who makes the trip home fastest from church on Christmas Day will do well in his work in the coming year. If he is a farmer, his crops will be a success.



Downtown Helsinki Christmas Eve. (Story and photo from Finnish Travel Agency)



The first snow fall of 1974 in Berlin helped to increase the feeling that Christmas is almost here. (Photo by Rich Bailey)

## In Denmark for Christmas

As the fall season turns into winter and the days become shorter, the Yuletide spirit is suddenly in the air. In the last week of November, the holiday atmosphere makes its entry into cities and homes all over Denmark. Gay window displays, often depicting "wonderlands" and "fairylands," attract large crowds of children and grown-ups. Stores are crowded. Main thoroughfares and shopping districts are decorated with spruce garlands illuminated by night with bright, electric Christmas stars. Christmas trees appear all over town—an evening stroll becomes an exciting experience—soon "Jul" (Christmas) will be here!

A week before Christmas, Danish kitchens become the scene of many mysterious activities. Housewives are busy baking Christmas crullers ("klejner"), brown cookies ("brune kager"), vanilla rings ("vanillekrans"), spice nuts ("pebernødder") and preparing candies, chocolates, caramels and marzipan. One evening during that week the whole family goes out to select the Christmas tree. In the country, one can buy a tree from the local Royal Forester, who, upon selling the tree, shakes your hand and utters the significant pass-word: "I grant you right of way through the forest." The tree is usually brought home on December 23rd, "Little Christmas Eve," as the Danes call it. That evening, the children are sent early to bed, while the parents alone decorate the tree and place the presents under it. The room is then locked, the key-hole blocked for peeping-toms, and father becomes "the keeper of the key."

Danes attach great importance to the fine tradition that "The Christmas spirit must not leave the home" ("Man

må ikke bære julen ud"). Whoever comes to the door during the Christmas season, be it the mailman, the delivery boy or the milkman—everyone is invited in to enjoy the warmth of the hearth and to taste the Christmas baking. The tradition also prescribes that one should not say "I am too busy" to any invitation.

Out in the country, the youngest member of the family is permitted to put a small dish of rice porridge in the attic—for the pixies. For some strange reason the dish is always empty the next day. The animals are also thought of, they get an extra feeding on Christmas Eve.

Meanwhile grandfather or father lights the many white candles on the Christmas tree. The doors are then opened wide and everyone is allowed into the room to admire the Christmas tree for the first time. And now the moment has come for the exchanging of gifts. In some parts of the country, Santa Claus arrives with a sack full of presents for the youngsters. When the gifts have been opened, coffee is served together with all the delicious home-baked goods. At midnight Christmas Eve, everybody retires.

On Christmas Day, many Danish families attend a church service. Family and friends then gather for a Christmas luncheon and nobody is allowed to work (except mother in the kitchen!).

"Boxing Day," known to the Danes as "Second Christmas Day" is spent visiting friends. During the afternoon, restaurants, theaters and movie-theaters again open their doors. Quite often they have a premiere. Life in the city resumes its normal tempo—but the spirit of Christmas lingers on, until everybody wishes one another a Happy New Year.

## A crib for Christmas

by Paule Augier

Modern times, so forgetful of tradition, make the Christmas holiday an exception and its splendor increases with each coming year. In Paris it is the custom for people to gather with their families and spend the holiday together.

In the streets, flowers bloom in the December wind and stars twinkle on the buildings. Between the lamp-posts enormous Christmas trees dance with candles; whole avenues turn into forest lanes, an enchanted forest with trees bearing garlands and good tidings.

Rome celebrated Christmas as far back as 1336 and this festival of good hope soon became a popular one and has accumulated traditions through the centuries and through our lands. The most firmly established one in its thousand aspects, touches the heart of the mystery. It is the representation of the Nativity. A sarcophagus from Arles and another from Rome depict as far back as the 4th century the adoration of the shepherds in the moonlight, between the ox and the ass — and this scene is repeated every year in our Paris churches. Carved out of wood, plaster, moulded in clay, these figures tell the marvelous tale that was told in the first cribs in the 12th century. The "praesepe", generally placed in the choir, was a sort of temporary altar on which was set amid flowers and candles a statue of the Virgin and Child. Curtains veiled this early version of the crib until the Angel had heralded the Holy Nativity to the chorus of shepherds. Simple religious scenes completed these songs of joy and they led to our great mystery plays of the Middle Ages, the source of our theater.

It took the influence of St. Francis of Assisi to give the crib the rustic appearance familiar to us, for he preferred the picturesque pastoral to the pomp of the liturgy and used straw instead of silk. His crib is the first recorded,

## Mistletoe for Xmas

Courtesy of E & I Division

No tree hung with precious jewels could have been more valuable to a landowner in days of old than a tree well-laden with mistletoe. So prosperous were the crops about such a tree that childless women begged for the privilege of sitting under it, believing that is promoted fertility.

Should a divining-rod-shaped branch be found of this child of the sun, its price was above rubies, for the sick were instantly healed as it was waved above their heads.

Because Norsemen dedicated it to Freyja, their goddess of love, maidens who failed to receive a kiss underneath a mistletoe-laden tree would not be married that year. Young men became wary of such maneuvers, so young Nordic maids became as resourceful as Mohammed, and brought the mistletoe indoors. Since a berry was picked off for each kiss, wellfilled branches were in great demand. Rosemary entwined with the mistletoe was a double-indemnity insurance policy. Marriages which followed these kissing-bees were said to have been especially blessed.

Even today, when kisses are no longer considered a pledge of betrothal, the custom of hanging a sprig of mistletoe in the doorway still persists. Some canny maids have even resorted to pinning a bit of it into their hair.

followed a year later in 1224 by that of Marseilles Observant Friars and then that of Avignon when it was the seat of the Papacy. But the custom only became really widespread at the time of the old singing Christmas in the 16th century. Some French churches preserve remarkable specimens from the period: Chartres, Brou, Abbeville and Chaource; the most famous Marseilles clay figures or "santons" date back only as far as Louis XIV, Louis XV and Louis XVI.

Nowadays the craftsman's inspiration varies from one church to another: candor and roundness at Notre-Dame des Champs, but long-lined and strictly stylized figures at Saint-Dermain des Prés. Yellow straw hangings, ivy-clad rocks, stretched canvas bearing the star — those are the settings for these silent scenes. The bareness of St-Jeandes-Abbeesses and that of Saint-Séverin, where people remember the early days of the Latin Quarter, is nearby, contrasting with the vision of the Orient offered by Saint-Sulpice, which has preserved a crib dating back before 1778, with figures clad in imaginatively rich costumes. No less amazing in our capital, but for other reasons, is the crib of the Batignolles Church, a typical crib of Provence, with its setting of frosty rocks, its small farmhouses and mills with its crowd of "santons" . . . Those little figures bring to life the whole of Provence in its traditional costumes; the miller brings his flour in offering, the huntsman his game, the gardener his vegetables and the pipe and tabor player his songs. Then at Epiphany, the Twelfth night procession brings the magic of the East into the heart of the Paris winter.

This is one of the many contrasts in this Paris of ours, where the "Christmas midnight" rings in the family dining-room as well as at Midnight Mass. . . Paris loves Christmas and cannot help giving the holiday its setting, its luxury and the particular poetry of its different parts.

## All personnel, U. S. Army, Berlin

*It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the command for its outstanding support of the 1974 Overseas Combined Federal Campaign.*

*Our goal for this campaign was \$18,500. You may be justifiably proud that, during the course of the six-week fund drive, you contributed more than \$24,675, surpassing our goal by more than six thousand dollars. This accomplishment represents a commendable achievement and reflects a strong sense of dedication and commitment. You may take satisfaction in knowing that, through your generosity, the efforts of the many worthwhile agencies of this campaign will continue.*

*To each of you who contributed to the success of this campaign, I extend my sincere appreciation and a deserving "Well Done."*

*Sam S. Walker*

SAM S. WALKER  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

## Snow country

by T. Sutter

Courtesy Swiss National Tourist Office

In many parts of Switzerland, ancient traditions are still alive around Saint Nicholas day (December 6th). The protagonists, the "Kläuse" as they are popularly called, may differ in appearance from one region to the other, but their common namesake is Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, and as attribute they wear a high head-dress, inspired by the mitre. Yet, the origin of these popular customs must be sought way back in pagan times, in the annual rites the purpose of which was to chase away the demons who haunted the long winter nights.

The most impressive spectacle of its kind may be seen every year in Küsnacht a/Rigi and in Arth on the lake of Zug, at the beginning of December.

Long before the great occasion, the boys and young men of the area go to work on the mitres, called Infus, which are often more than 3 ft. high. This headdress, made of cardboard cut out in ornamental patterns which include Christian motives. On the inside, the open work is covered with colored, transparent paper and illuminated by many candles. This work of art is fitted onto a wooden plate with two hafts and has to be balanced on the head; for better support, it is further attached to a cardboard "top hat". The lightbearers, called Yffeln, wear long white beards and a long, white shirtlike gown trimmed with gold. The procession starts about 7 p.m. and is indeed a spooky sight because the ghostlike figures do not merely parade in even step but perform a sort of ritual dance. They are followed by the so-called Nicholas chasers, a crowd of boys and youngsters equipped with large cowbells, small bells, horns and long whips serving to make a hellish noise. Fully unperturbed by this pagan agitation, Saint Nicholas with "Schmutzli", his servant, goes quietly about his business distributing presents in the homes. In the later hours, crowd, lights, noise and all, visits the homesteads and farms of the neighborhood. The procession will pay special reverence to the big fruit trees, hitting their stems with the bells, in observance of an ancient fertility ritual.

## One week off

The next issue of the Berlin Observer will be out on January 3, 1975. Because of problems with the holiday schedule at our printers all material is needed by December 23, 1974. If you have problems call and discuss them with the Editor at 6122.

## Courtesy and patience

The BERLIN OBSERVER, on behalf of the U. S. Command, Berlin, would like to extend it's thanks to the employees of AFEES for doing such a marvelous job during the recent "Wonderful Wednesday" sale. The unusual circumstances were often quite difficult to cope with, we're sure. The courtesy and patience extended to the exchange patrons did not go un-noticed. Thank you.

## Toys needed for Christmas

Members of the Berlin-American community are asked to share Christmas with children residing in West Berlin. Repairable, usable toys may be delivered to the All-American Recreation Center at Andrews Barracks from 1 p.m.-9:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and from 9:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. on Sundays. Santa Claus himself will deliver the toys to American and German children during the Christmas season.

## Gift Wrapping at PX

The NCO-EM Wives Club is having a Christmas Gift Wrapping Project at the PX Shopping Center. The hours of operation are Mon-Fri from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Overseas Wrapping Service

The Main Exchange has an overseas wrapping service for the convenience of personnel in the Command. It is located behind the Appliance Repair. The wrapping service is open Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Annual Christmas Program

The annual Christmas Program by the CCD will be held on Sunday, December 22, at 3 p.m. in the American Community Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Relocation of US Bus Stop

Due to the relocation of the U. S. bus stop in the U. S. Shopping Center, a portion of Marshal Strasse (adjacent the commissary and Sports Center) will be designated one-way effective today. Patrons are reminded to observe all traffic signs because of the construction in this area.

## American Children's Christmas Party

American military parents with pre-school children are invited to attend the American Children's Christmas Party from 2 till 4 p.m. this Sunday. Santa Claus will be laden with "toys for tots" to delight the little ones.

## Special Holiday Dance

A special Holiday Dance will be held at the All American Recreation Center Saturday, December 28 from 8 p.m. till midnight. All couples and singles of the American community are invited to attend the festivities. For information call Mark Tolbert at 6809 or the Rec Center at 3147.

## All American open during Holidays

All American Recreation Center will be open seven days each week throughout the holiday period, to include Tuesdays.

## Stag-Night tonight

A stag-night will be held at the Main Exchange today from 6 till 8 p.m. This males only affair is your opportunity for all that last minute shopping for your girl-friends, sweethearts and wives.

## Ice Coupon sales eliminated

Low utilization of the ice coupons sales at the Commissary has dictated the elimination of this service effective December 31. Block ice production at the Supply and Services Division will be discontinued January 31, 1975. Coupons must be redeemed prior to January 31. (S & S Div. 3109)

## APO Information

Effective immediately, authorized APO patrons may dispatch mail from APOs to West German and West Berlin economy addresses at domestic rather than international postage rates. Airmail and first class letters will cost 13¢ and 10¢ per oz., respectively, rather than the international rates of 26¢ per half oz. for airmail and 18¢ per oz. for first class. Parcels will be mailed at Domestic local zone rates. APO patrons are reminded that this change is only for mail sent to local addresses within West Germany and West Berlin; international rates will still be charged for mail to other countries. Furthermore, such mail must still have a complete military return address, i. e., full name, rank, SSAN, unit, and APO.

## Christmas Basketball Invitational Tournament

The 1974 Christmas Basketball Invitational Tournament will be conducted in the Sports Center Gym. Teams representing each league within the Berlin Brigade plus a German Sports Club, a British Forces Basketball Club and the Police Sport Club will participate. Games will be played from 1 p.m. till 9 p.m. on December 23, 26, and 27. On Christmas Eve games will start at 10 a.m. and should be completed by 5 p.m.

## Nursing Mothers' Circle meets

A special "End-of-the-Year" meeting of the Nursing Mothers' Circle, (formerly the La Leche League), will be held on Friday, December 27, at 18 Reichshoferstrasse, at 1:30 p.m. We are hoping to welcome all the mothers in Berlin who have ever been associated with the La Leche League either here or elsewhere. There will be a short regular meeting and a longer discussion time for former, present, and future members to socialize. Babies, nursing or otherwise, two years and under, are very welcome. Call Venonica Gard, 832-8682, for further information.

## Jewish Services tonight

Chaplain Ernest David Lapp, Division Chaplain, 1st Armor Division, will assist in conducting Jewish services at the American Community Chapel, 8 p.m., tonight. Chaplain Lapp will also be available for counseling today. Kindly contact 6761 for an appointment.

## Bus Terminal moves

Effective today the bus terminal, presently located at the Shopping Center, will be moved to Marshall St., behind the main P. X. The change of location will not affect the existing bus schedules. In addition, the bus stops near the main gate at the U. S. Headquarters Berlin will be eliminated on the same date.

## Now four Education Centers

There are now four Army education centers to serve you: Andrews, located in building 901; McNair, building 1001D; Headquarters Compound, building four, floor four; and the 279th Station Hospital, building 594, room 12. Learn how you can improve yourself professionally and personally at your Army education centers.



### CHANNEL 12

Tempelhof

### CHANNEL 25

Dahlem/Zehlendorf

#### FRIDAY (December 20)

- 3:25 Early Report
- 3:30 Another World
- 3:50 Dinah's Place
- 4:15 Electric Company
- 4:45 Snowball Satellite
- 5:15 Let's Make A Deal
- 5:40 The French Chef
- 6:05 A Charlie Brown Christmas - Special
- 6:30 Evening Report
- 7:10 Chopper One "Bust Out"
- 7:35 Town Crier
- 7:40 Chronicle
- 8:05 Sanford and Son
- 8:30 The Avengers "The House That Jack Built"
- 9:25 David Steinberg
- 10:15 Nightly News
- 10:35 Creature Feature "Fiend Without A Face"
- 11:45 Tonight Show
- 12:50 Sign Off

#### SATURDAY

- 9:35 Sesame Street
- 10:30 New Zoo Revue
- 10:55 Famous Classic Tales "The Black Arrow"
- 11:45 Animal World "South Africa's Feather Farms"
- 12:10 Daniel Boone
- 1:00 Weekend Report
- 1:05 AFN TV Saturday Afternoon Sports
- 6:05 Bill Anderson
- 6:30 Weekend Report
- 6:40 Room 222 "You Don't Know Me, He Said"
- 7:05 Bill Cosby Christmas Special
- 7:55 Town Crier

- 8:00 Corner Bar (Premiere)
- 8:25 Ken Berry Wow Show (Premiere)
- 9:15 Ghost Story "Creatures of the Canyon"
- 10:05 Saturday Night at the Movies "Torpedo Bay"
- 11:35 "Pacific Destiny"
- 1:05 Sign Off

#### SUNDAY

- 9:35 Christopher Closeup
- 9:50 Sacred Heart
- 10:05 Life of Jesus
- 10:30 Music and the Spoken Word
- 10:55 Selmat Datang to Indonesia
- 11:25 Sunday Afternoon Sports
- 1:25 Weekend Report
- 1:30 Sunday Afternoon Sports
- 3:00 Reasoner Report
- 3:45 Face the Nation
- 4:15 Early Movie "Come to the Stable"
- 5:40 Little Drummer Boy - Special
- 6:05 Better World
- 6:30 Weekend Report
- 6:40 Arthur "The Duel"
- 7:05 Action '74 - Special
- 8:00 Andy Williams Christmas Special
- 8:50 Sixty Minutes
- 9:40 Sunday Night at the Movies "The Holly and the Ivy"
- 10:55 Dick Cavett
- 12:00 Sign Off

#### MONDAY

- 1:05 Christmas with Lorne Greene - Special

- 1:30 Holiday Movie "Miracle on 34th Street"
- 3:00 Primus "Infrared"
- 3:25 Early Report
- 3:30 Another World
- 3:50 Let's Make a Deal
- 4:15 Electric Company
- 4:45 The Flintstones
- 5:15 A Very Merry Cricket - Special
- 5:40 Danny Thomas - Cricket on the Hearth - Special
- 6:30 Evening Report
- 7:10 The Great Santa Claus Switch - Special

- 8:00 Monday Night Football
- 10:15 Nightly News
- 10:35 Geraldo Rivera: Goodnight America
- 11:40 Tonight Show
- 12:45 Sign Off

#### TUESDAY

- 12:55 The Night the Animals Talked - Special
- 1:20 Santa Claus is coming to Town - Special
- 2:10 Mr. Magoo's Christmas Carol - Special
- 3:00 Partridge Family "Hellip"
- 3:25 Early Report
- 3:30 Another World
- 3:50 Let's Make a Deal
- 4:15 Electric Company
- 4:45 The Flintstones
- 5:15 Mike Douglas
- 6:30 Evening Report
- 6:40 The Night before Christmas - Special
- 7:10 Bing Crosby Sun Valley Christmas - Special
- 8:05 Bless the Lord all ye Beasts - Special
- 8:30 Hawaii Five-0 "The Sunday Torch"
- 9:25 Dean Martin
- 10:15 Sounds of Christmas Eve - Special
- 10:35 House without a Christmas Tree - Special
- 11:45 Songs of Christmas
- 12:35 Sign Off

#### WEDNESDAY

- 12:55 The Heart of Christmas - Special

- 1:20 Tidings of Great Joy - Special
- 2:10 Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer - Special
- 3:00 The Bear who slept through Christmas - Special
- 3:25 Early Report
- 3:30 Another World
- 3:50 Let's Make a Deal
- 4:15 Electric Company
- 4:45 The Flintstones Christmas
- 5:15 The Littlest Angel - Special
- 6:30 Evening Report
- 6:40 A Christmas Story - Special
- 7:10 A Very Special Christmas - Special
- 7:35 Christ Is Born - Special
- 8:30 Perry Como Holiday Special
- 9:25 Cannon "Death Chain"
- 10:15 The Glendale Symphonie - Special
- 10:35 Bobby Darin
- 11:25 The Tonight Show
- 12:30 Sign Off

#### THURSDAY

- 1:00 Special Movie "The Bells of St. Mary's"
- 3:00 Lotsa Luck
- 3:25 Early Report
- 3:30 Another World
- 3:50 Let's Make a Deal
- 4:15 Electric Company
- 4:45 The Flintstones
- 5:15 Mike Douglas
- 6:30 Evening Report
- 7:10 Bob Newhart
- 7:35 Town Crier
- 7:40 Monty Nash "The Friendliest Town in the South"
- 8:05 Love Thy Neighbor "Want to Split A Maid?"
- 8:30 Gunsmoke "The Boy and the Sinner"
- 9:25 Sonny and Cher
- 10:15 Nightly News
- 10:35 The Fugitive "The Evil Men do" Blessings of Liberty"
- 11:25 Superstars of Rock
- 11:55 Sign Off

#### FRIDAY (December 27)

- 1:05 Special Movie "David Copperfield"
- 3:00 Roll Out "Sweet Millions"
- 3:25 Early Report
- 3:30 Another World
- 3:50 Let's Make a Deal
- 4:15 Electric Company
- 4:45 The Flintstones
- 5:15 Dinah's Place
- 5:40 The French Chef
- 6:05 Guitar Workshop
- 6:30 Evening Report
- 7:10 Chopper One "A Boy who Called Wolf"
- 7:35 Town Crier
- 7:40 Chronicle
- 8:05 Sanford and Son
- 8:30 Laredo "Yahoo"
- 9:25 David Steinberg
- 10:15 Nightly News
- 10:35 Creature Feature "To Love A Vampire"
- 12:00 Tonight Show
- 1:05 Sign Off

#### SATURDAY

- 9:00 Cartoon Carnival
- 9:35 Sesame Street
- 10:30 New Zoo Revue
- 10:55 Famous Classic Tales "The Count of Monte Cristo"
- 11:45 Animal World "Animal Orphanage"
- 12:10 Daniel Boone "The Jasper Ledbeeder Story"
- 1:00 Weekend Report
- 1:05 AFN Television Saturday Afternoon Sports
- 6:05 Buck Owens
- 6:30 Weekend Report
- 6:40 Room 222
- 7:05 Wild Wild West
- 7:55 Town Crier
- 8:00 Corner Bar
- 8:25 Ken Berry Wow Show

- 9:15 Ghost Story "The Dead we Leave Behind"
- 10:05 Saturday Night at the Movies "Doberman Gang"
- 11:25 "Run Home Slow"
- 12:40 Sign Off

#### SUNDAY

- 9:30 Sesame Street
- 9:50 Sacred Heart
- 10:05 Life of Jesus
- 10:15 New Zoo Revue
- 10:35 Famous Classic Tales
- 10:55 Mr. Zodiac
- 11:20 Animal World
- 11:45 Daniel Boone
- 12:30 News
- 12:35 Football Dallas vs. D. C.
- 3:00 Basketball
- 3:10 Live C.S.C.
- 5:00 Boxing from the Olympic
- 6:00 American Sports Man
- 6:30 Weekend Report
- 6:40 Arthur "The Prisoner"
- 7:05 Dean Martin's Comedy World
- 7:55 Town Crier
- 8:00 Mod Squad "A Time of Hyacinths"
- 8:50 Closeup "Women in Prison"
- 9:40 Sunday Night at the Movies "A Memory of two Mondays"
- 11:05 David Frost presents Guinness Book of World Records
- 12:10 Sign Off

#### MONDAY

- 1:25 Bonanza
- 2:15 Blondie Film Festival "Blondie"
- 3:25 Early Report
- 3:30 Another World

- 3:50 Let's Make a Deal
- 4:15 Electric Company
- 4:45 The Flintstones
- 5:15 Newlywed Game
- 5:40 Laredo "Rendezvous at Arillo"
- 6:30 Evening Report
- 7:10 Primus "Trapped"
- 7:35 Town Crier
- 7:40 to be announced
- 8:00 Monday Night Football
- 10:15 Nightly News
- 10:35 The Mike Douglas 1920's Show
- 11:45 Tonight Show
- 12:50 Sign Off

#### TUESDAY

- 1:25 Bonanza
- 2:15 Blondie Film Festival "Blondie Meets the Boss"
- 3:25 Early Report
- 3:30 Another World
- 3:50 Let's Make a Deal
- 4:15 Electric Company
- 4:45 The Flintstones
- 5:15 Mike Douglas
- 6:30 Evening Report
- 6:40 to be announced
- 7:10 Partridge Family "To Sing or not to Sing"
- 7:35 Town Crier
- 7:40 to be announced
- 8:05 Roll Out "Members of the Wedding"
- 8:30 Chopper One "The Informer"
- 8:55 Your Hit Parade (Premiere)
- 9:25 Hawaii Five-0
- 10:15 Late Show "Thieves' Highway"
- 11:45 Minority Community
- 12:35 Sign Off

#### WEDNESDAY

- 1:25 Bonanza
- 2:15 Blondie Film Festival "Blondie Brings Up Baby"
- 3:25 Early Report
- 3:30 Another World
- 3:50 Let's Make a Deal
- 4:15 Electric Company
- 4:45 Flintstones
- 5:15 Lost In Space "The Space Primevals"
- 6:05 Victory at Sea
- 6:30 Evening Report to be announced
- 6:40 Lotsa Luck
- 7:10 Wednesday Night at the Movies "The Robe"
- 9:45 Cannon "Fool's Gold"
- 10:35 Bobby Darin
- 11:25 Tonight Show
- 12:30 Sign Off

#### THURSDAY

- 1:25 Bonanza
- 2:15 Blondie Film Festival "Blondie On A Budget"
- 3:25 Early Report
- 3:30 Another World
- 3:50 Let's Make a Deal
- 4:15 Electric Company
- 4:45 Flintstones
- 5:15 Mike Douglas
- 6:30 Evening Report
- 7:10 Bob Newhart
- 7:35 Town Crier
- 7:40 Monty Nash "The Visitor"
- 8:05 Love Thy Neighbor "The Grass is always Greener"
- 8:30 Gunsmoke "The Widemaker"
- 9:25 Dean Martin's Comedy World
- 10:15 Nightly News
- 10:35 Fugitive "Run the Man Down"
- 11:25 Music Machine
- 12:00 Sign Off

## RADIO

AFN frequencies on your radio dial: AM 935 KC; FM 87.85 MC. FM Berlin presents its "Golden Sound" around the clock in STEREO.

### Weekdays

- 0:05 Pete Smith
- 1:00 News followed by the Golden Sound (FM)
- 1:05 Nightbeat
- 2:00 Special Announcement Summary or World of Wheels
- 2:05 Bob Kingsley Snow
- 3:00 News followed by the Golden Sound (FM)
- 3:05 Tom Campbell Stateside
- 4:00 Profiles in Greatness
- 4:05 Roland Bynum
- 5:00 Town and Country
- 5:55 This is AFN . . .
- 6:00 News and Sports
- 6:00 World News (W)
- 6:05 A Musical Merry Christmas (W)
- 6:15 Road and Weather Special Announcements Summary
- 6:15 Golden Sound (FM)
- 6:22 Good Morning, with Bryan Parry
- 6:45 Berlin in Review, repeat from Saturday (M)
- 6:55 Berlin "A.M." - Regional News
- 7:00 The Seven O'Clock Report
- 7:00 World News (W)

- 7:05 A Musical Merry Christmas (W)
- 7:30 Good Morning, with Bryan Parry, continued
- 7:30 Berlin Bulletin Board (FM)
- 7:35 Golden Sound (FM)
- 8:00 News (FM)
- 8:00 World News (W)
- 8:05 Golden Sound (FM)
- 8:05 Good Morning with Bryan Parry (cont.)
- 8:05 A Musical Merry Christmas (W)
- 9:00 News (FM)
- 9:05 Golden Sound (FM)
- 9:05 Charlie Tuna
- 10:00 News (FM)
- 10:05 Roger Carroll (T, Th)
- 10:05 Women's World (M, W, F)
- 11:00 News (FM)
- 11:05 Karl Haas, Adventure in Good Music (Mon-Fri on AFN-FM)
- 11:05 Theater Five
- 11:05 The Spirit of Christmas (M, T)

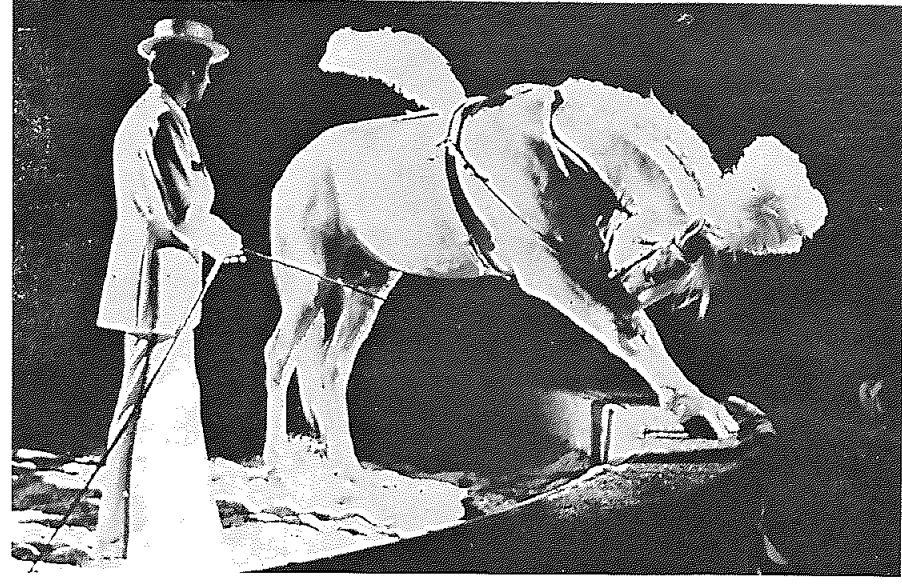
- 11:05 Command Greetings (W)
- 11:05 Golden Sound (FM)
- 11:30 The Lunch Bag
- 12:00 News and Sports
- 12:00 World News (W)
- 12:05 Miracle on 34th Street (W)
- 12:15 Road and Weather Special Announcements Summary
- 12:15 Golden Sound with news on the hour (FM)
- 12:22 The Lunch Bag
- 1:05 Don Tracy Soul Show
- 1:05 Christmas in Germany (W)
- 2:00 The Messiah (W)
- 2:05 Gene Price's Country World
- 3:00 World News Special Announcement Summary
- 3:05 Viva (M, W, F)
- 3:05 Right On (T, Th)
- 4:05 Ralph Stinson
- 4:30 Incident in Bethlehem (W)

- 5:05 Stingiest Man In Town (W)
- 5:05 The Spirit of Christmas (Th, F)
- 6:00 News World 90
- 6:00 World News and Sports (W)
- 6:30 EUCOM Merry Christmas (W)
- 7:05 Nightside (T)
- 7:05 Peter Pan (W)
- 7:30 Nightside
- 8:05 Organ Mistletoe (W)
- 8:10 A Christmas Odyssey (W)
- 8:55 Organ Mistletoe (W)
- 9:05 Christmas At Home (W)
- 9:05 Concert Hall (Mon-Fri on AFN-FM)
- 9:25 Paul Harvey
- 9:35 Suspense (M)
- 9:35 Have Gun will Travel (T)
- 9:30 Life of Riley (W)
- 9:35 Mystery Theater (Th)
- 9:45 Gunsmoke (F)
- 10:00 World News (T)
- 10:00 World News and Sports with Special Announcements (FM)
- 10:05 "Nutcracker Suite" (T)
- 10:05 The World of Christmas (W)
- 10:25 Old Gold - Retold
- 11:05 Wolfman Jack

# Have yourself a Merry Holiday Time in Berlin!

by Judy Pricks

When you come into the Deutschlandhalle these days, your nose lets you know very quickly that the circus is here. That familiar pungent smell zoo visitors will recognize is that of the wild cats, elephants and horses. Such animals are living behind the colorful circus set up in the



TAKING A BOW after a most charming number in memory of Maurice Chevalier is one of the beautiful horses in Fredy Knie's free dressage performance in "Animals—People—Sensations" in the Deutschlandhalle. (Photo compliments of Deutschlandhalle)

Deutschlandhalle from December 8 to 31, because they are part of the big two-and-one-half-hour show entitled "Animals—People—Sensations" that thrills young and old at 3:30 and 8 p.m. on weekdays and 2 and 6 p.m. on Sundays and holidays.

This year the program really lives up to its name with an international selection of artists, each tops in his field. Always outstanding are the animal numbers of the Swiss circus family Knie. The rock 'n roll number with elephants and pretty girls, breathtaking beautiful horses, classical riding, and some adorable ponies ridden by monkeys are presented by the Brothers Knie. Four huge tigers and four lions are tamed by Marcella from the GDR. There are also bears and a most unusual act with birds of prey in the ring. Two very peppy acrobatic numbers from the GDR provide plenty of action downstairs, while you get a stiff neck and wet palms when the White Devils from France do their stunts on the high wire. The Les Jarz from Italy are so outstanding on the trapeze that they can claim the "Circus Oscar" as their own. And then, of course, you have jugglers, bicycle stunts and clowns rounding out a really good mixture of action, thrills, beauty and entertainment. The whole thing ends with a big splash—the human torch Roy Fransen from England jumps from a 45-foot tower into a ring of fire filled with water.

My tip for a holiday pleasure or a surprise gift is an evening or afternoon at the Deutschlandhalle with "Animals—People—Sensations." Or maybe you want to spend New Year's Eve there when the 6 p.m. show is followed by a religious service in the circus. If you desire to go tomorrow, December 21, you'll have the additional treat of hearing not only the regular band of the Deutschlandhalle that provides the background music but also the SFB Big-band under Paul Kuhn. Ticket prices begin at DM 2 and children pay only half-price for the afternoon program.

Unless you've been living with your head in the sand you know by now that Liza Minnelli will be in the Deutschlandhalle on January 10 (that smell should be gone by then . . .). Judy Garland's famous daughter is only making three appearances in Germany on her first European tour (in Hamburg and Frankfurt, too). She is accompanied by a 30-man band, conducted by Jack French, and a dance group. World stars aren't cheap and a ticket for an evening with Liza is something to put under the Christmas tree—from DM 15 to 65.

Well folks, that's it for this year. Have yourself a merry holiday time in Berlin. As you can see from the schedule there is plenty happening. Yours truly is checking the skiing scene in the Dolomites. See you next year!

## MOTION PICTURES

Week of December 20 through December 26

### COLUMBIA

Fri For Pete's Sake (PG), Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sat Same show as above, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sun High Plains Drifter (R), 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Mon Harry In Your Pocket (PG), 7 p.m.  
Tue — closed —  
Wed Mame (PG), Inc. Adm., 7 p.m.  
Thu Where The Red Fern Grows (G), Inc. Adm., 7 p.m.

### OUTPOST

Fri Jesus Christ Superstar (G), Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sat Christmas Special Scrooge (G), 10 a.m.  
Sun Children's Matinee The Wacky World Of Mother Goose (G), 2:30 p.m.  
Sat Bootleggers (PG), 4:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sun For Pete's Sake (PG), Inc. Adm., 4:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Mon Same show as above, Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Tue Harry In Your Pocket (PG), 6:30 p.m.

Wed High Plains Drifter (R), 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Thu Mame (PG), Inc. Adm., 6:30, 9 p.m.

### COLISEUM

Fri Mutations (R), 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sat Electra Glide In Blue (PG), 6:30, 8:45 p.m.  
Sun Jesus Christ Superstar (G), Inc. Adm., 2:30, 7 p.m.  
Mon Same show as above, Inc. Adm., 7 p.m.  
Tue Bootleggers (PG), 6:30 p.m.  
Wed For Pete's Sake (PG), Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Thu Same show as above, Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

### ANDREWS

Fri Death Wish (R), Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sat Same show as above, Inc. Adm., 1 a.m., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sun Mutations (R), 6:30, 8:30 p.m. and 1 a.m.  
Mon Electra Glide In Blue (PG), 6:30, 8:45 p.m.  
Tue Jesus Christ Superstar (G), Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Wed Same show as above, Inc. Adm., 1 a.m., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Thu Bootleggers (PG), 6:30, 8:40 p.m.

### JERBOA

Daily performances are at 6 and 8:30 p.m., unless otherwise stated  
Fri What Did You Do In The War Daddy (A), 6 p.m. only  
Fri Night Of The Generals (A), 8:30 p.m. only  
Sat Children's Matinee at 10 a.m. Sword Of All Baba (U)  
Sat What Did You Do In The War Daddy (A), 6 p.m. only  
Sat Night Of The Generals (A), 8:30 p.m. only  
Sun The Three Musketeers (U)  
Mon Same show as above Tue Carry On Girls (A)  
Wed — Cinema Closed — CHRISTMAS DAY  
Thu Man Of The East (A), 5:45 and 8:30 p.m. only  
ASTRA Monday-Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 6 and 8:30 p.m., unless otherwise stated  
Fri Hap Ki Do (X)  
Sat Children's Matinee at 2 p.m. Treasure Island (U)

Sat Monte Carlo Or Bust (U), 6 p.m. only  
Sat Hap Ki Do (X), 8:30 p.m. only  
Sun The Great Gatsby (A), 5:45 and 8:30 p.m.  
Mon Same show as above, 7:30 p.m. only  
Tue Holiday On The Buses (A), 6 p.m. only  
Wed — Cinema Closed — CHRISTMAS DAY  
Thu Till Death Us Do Part (A)

### L'Aiglon

French movie theater at Quartier Napoleon on Kurt-Schumacher-Damm  
Sat Dites Le Avec Des Fleurs, 8:30 p.m.  
Sun Same show as above 8:30 p.m.  
Sun Les 101 Dalmatiens, 3 p.m.  
Mon Play Time, 8:30 p.m., starring Barbara Denneck, Reinhart Koldedhoff  
Thu Refroidi a 99%, 8:30 p.m., starring Richard Harris, Edmond O'Brien

Two hands are better than one—a scene from THE LONGEST YARD coming to Berlin movie theaters next week. (Photo Courtesy Paramount)



FOR PETE'S SAKE — rated PG. Barbra Streisand's new comedy offers more of the high spirited antics that made WHAT'S UP DOGS such a hit. She's an enterprising housewife who gets into big trouble trying to borrow money for her husband. She's got the mafia, cat burglars, gangland assassins and a high powered madame all leaning on her before the affair is settled. FOR PETE'S SAKE is a refreshing update of the old time action farce. Also stars Michael Sarrazin. Special Short Subject: 1974 NFL Game — Steelers vs. Saints.

HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER — Revival, rated R. Clint Eastwood hired by the corrupt citizens of a little mining town to protect them from the wrath of three mean gunmen with a grudge to settle. Eastwood paints everything red, names the town Hell, and prepares for the worst. The film contains graphic violence. Also stars Mariana Hill.

HARRY IN YOUR POCKET — Revival, rated PG. Take an entertaining and possibly enlightening look into the world of the pick-pocket. Harry and his crew are positively artful in the way they can lift and dispose of the contents of your pockets. They travel from town to town leaving a trail of stupefied victims in their wake. This is drug use in the film. Starring James Coburn and Michael Sarrazin.  
MAME — rated PG. She's flamboyant, funny, sentimental, scandalous, and usually skirting the edge of disaster. She's Lucille Ball, playing MAME in the film adaption of the hit Broadway musical. The lively tale the lady's loves and misadventure is a spectacle of delight. Also stars Robert Preston.

WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS — rated G. RED FERN is the true story of a boy whose ambition is to have the best coon hunting dogs in the country. He works to buy the hounds and trains them himself to win a hunting contest. The depression era drama is a tale of triumph and tragedy with appeal to all age groups. Starring James Whitmore and Beverly Garland.

THE LONGEST YARD — rated R. THE LONGEST YARD stages one of the most outrageous contests ever conceived — a football game between the inmates and the guards of a state prison. Needless to say, feelings run high and each team is itching to clobber the other. Burl Reynolds leads the inside team. Action and humor dominate the high charged spectacle. Also stars Eddie Albert.

THE STONE KILLER — Revival, rated R. Charles Bronson tangles with the Mafia in this super action yarn. He's a cop who's sent out to Los Angeles to investigate the murder of a junkie dealer. The case leads Bronson into a heavy confrontation with crime bosses who spare no expense in trying to get the nosy cop out of their lives. There is violence and profanity in the film. Also stars Martin Balsam.

MADHOUSE — rated PG. Tables are turned on Vincent Price in this account of a horror movie actor whose every move is followed by murder. He of course is a suspect and his yareer suffers. Finally, the trail of bodies leaves a concrete clue and in a grotesque climax the actor solves the mystery.

AMERICAN GRAFFITI — Revival, rated PG. California in 1962 was where it was happening for a generation on wheels. Wolfman Jack is howling over the airwaves and the kids of a whole decade get into one night of mobilized good times. Starring Ronny Howard, Richard Dreyfuss.

Week of December 27 through January 2

### COLUMBIA

Fri The Longest Yard (R) Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:50 p.m.  
Sat Same show as above Inc. Adm.  
Sun The Stone Killer (R) 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Mon Madhouse (PG) Inc. Adm., 7 p.m.  
Tue — closed —  
Wed American Graffiti (PG) Inc. Adm., 7 p.m.  
Thu Pippi In The South Seas (G), 7 p.m.  
OUTPOST  
Fri Mame (PG), Inc. Adm., 6:30, 9 p.m.  
Sat Children's Matinee Brother Of The Wind (G), 2:30 p.m.  
Sat Where The Red Fern Grows (G), Inc. Adm., 4:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sun The Longest Yard (R) Inc. Adm., 3:50, 6:30, 8:50 p.m.  
Mon Same show as above Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:50 p.m.  
Tue The Stone Killer (R) 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Wed Mad House (PG) Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Thu American Graffiti (PG) Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:50 p.m.

### COLISEUM

Fri High Plains Drifter (R) 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sat Harry In Your Pocket (PG), 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sun Mame (PG), Inc. Adm., 2:30, 7 p.m.  
Mon Same show as above Inc. Adm., 7 p.m.  
Tue Where The Red Fern Grows (G), Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Wed The Longest Yard (R) Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:50 p.m.  
Thu Same show as above Inc. Adm., 7 p.m.

### ANDREWS

Fri For Pete's Sake (PG) Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sat Same show as above Inc. Adm., 1 a.m., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Sun High Plains Drifter (R) 6:30, 8:30 p.m. and 1 a.m.  
Mon Harry In Your Pocket (PG), 6:30, 8:30 p.m.  
Tue Mame (PG), Inc. Adm., 6:30, 9 p.m.

Wed Same show as above Inc. Adm., 1 a.m., 6:30, 9 p.m.  
Thu Where The Red Fern Grows (G), Inc. Adm., 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

### JERBOA

Daily performances are at 6 and 8:30 p.m., unless otherwise stated  
Fri Hap Ki Do (X) 5:45 and 8:30 p.m. only  
Sat Same show as above  
Sat Children's Matinee at 10 a.m. Menace On The Mountain (U)  
Sun The Great Gatsby (A) 5:45 and 8:30 p.m.  
Mon Same show as above 5:45 and 8:30 p.m.  
Tue Till Death Us Do Part (A), 6 p.m. only  
Tue Frankenstein And The Monster From Hell (X) 8:30 p.m. only  
Wed Till Death Us Do Part (A), 6 p.m. only  
Wed Frankenstein And The Monster From Hell (X) 8:30 p.m. only  
ASTRA Monday-Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 6 and 8:30 p.m., unless otherwise stated  
Fri Blazing Saddles (AA)

Sat Children's Matinee at 2 p.m. Sword Of All Baba (U)  
Sat The Three Musketeers (U), 6 p.m. only  
Sat Blazing Saddles (AA) 8:30 p.m. only  
Sun Jesus Christ Superstar (A), 6 p.m. only  
Sun Dillinger (X), 8:30 p.m.  
Mon Same show as above  
Tue Virgin Soldiers (X)

### L'Aiglon

French movie theater at Quartier Napoleon on Kurt-Schumacher-Damm  
Sat Borsalino & Co. 8:30 p.m., starring Alain Delon, Riccardo Cucciolla  
Sun Same show as above 8:30 p.m.  
Sun Rapt A L'italienne 3 p.m., starring Marcello Mastroianni, Oliver Reed  
Thu Larry Le Dingue, Mary La Garce 8:30 p.m., starring Peter Fonda, Vic Morrow.

## Woodcarvings on Focus

by Marga Danesy

Some marvelous woodcarvings are on display at the Main Library, Headquarters Compound. These lifelike figures—of which the tallest is approximately 30 inches high—were created by LTC Jake Ruppe. LTC Ruppe came to Berlin just recently with his wife and daughters. In the little village where he was previously stationed, he learned the art of woodcarving from a local craftsman and developed such skill that his works can be compared with those of renowned carvers in Bavaria and Switzerland.

"To be a woodcarver, you need talent, patience and hard work," said a teacher from a well-known carving

school, and this combination can easily be detected in LTC Ruppe's craftsmanship.

You might want to know how long it takes to achieve something like this yourself. It depends on the talent and time available; but you may count on at least two years, we were told. And how is it done? The artist draws the design on wood, then roughs it in with a jigsaw and carves the rest by hand. If you need more information on what type of wood and tools to use, there are books available at your Recreation Services Libraries which will help you make the wood chips fly.

# Christmas and New Year Holiday Schedules

# Cultural Events Around Town...

Following are EES operating hours for the Christmas and New Year holidays:

Tuesday, December 24, 1974 (Christmas Eve)	
Shopping Center Department Store	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
McNair Retail Store	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Andrews Retail Store	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Andrews Furniture Store	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Hospital, Junior PX	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tempelhof Base Exchange	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Foodland Saargemuender Strasse	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Foodland Sundgauer Strasse	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Foodland Dueppel	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Four Seasons Store	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Shopping Center Cafeteria	7 a.m.-1 p.m.
Andrews Cafeteria	9 a.m.-1 p.m.
McNair Autom Food Outlet	9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tempelhof Autom Food Outlet	closed
Service Station Clay Allee	8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Service Station Tempelhof	8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Shopping Center Washerette	8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Garage and Parts Store	8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wednesday, December 25, 1974 (Christmas Day)	
All installations	closed
Thursday, December 26, 1974 (2d Christmas Day)	
Shopping Center Department Store	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
McNair Retail Store	11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Andrews Retail Store	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Andrews Furniture Store	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Hospital Jr. PX	11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Tempelhof Base Exchange	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Foodland Saargemuender Strasse	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Foodland Sundgauer Strasse	11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Foodland Dueppel	11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Four Seasons Store	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Shopping Center Cafeteria	9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Andrews Cafeteria	9 a.m.-7 p.m.
McNair Autom Food Outlet	9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Tempelhof Autom Food Outlet	closed
Service Station Clay Allee	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Service Station Tempelhof	8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Washerette Shopping Center	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Garage and Parts Store	closed
Tuesday, December 31, 1974 (New Year's Eve)	
Shopping Center Department Store	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
McNair Retail Store	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Andrews Retail Store	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Andrews Furniture Store	10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Hospital Jr. PX	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tempelhof Base Exchange	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Foodland Saargemuender Strasse	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Foodland Sundgauer Strasse	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Foodland Dueppel	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Four Seasons Store	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Shopping Center Cafeteria	7 a.m.-1 p.m.
Andrews Cafeteria	9 a.m.-1 p.m.
McNair Autom Food Outlet	9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tempelhof Autom Food Outlet	closed
Service Station Clay Allee	8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Service Station Tempelhof	8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Washerette Shopping Center	8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Garage and Parts Store	8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wednesday, January 1, 1975 (New Year's Day)	
All installations	closed
American Express Holiday Hours:	
December 24	9 a.m.-noon
December 25 and 26	closed
December 31	9 a.m.-noon
January 1, 1975	closed

## COMMISSARY STORE

The Berlin Command Commissary Store will operate with the following work schedule during the period 20 Dec 74 through 5 Jan 75:

Thursday, Dec 19	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Friday, Dec 20	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec 21	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday, Dec 22	closed
Monday, Dec 23	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec 24	9 a.m.-noon
Wednesday, Dec 25	closed, CHRISTMAS
Thursday, Dec 26	closed, LN holiday
Friday, Dec 27	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec 28	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday, Dec 29	closed
Monday, Dec 30	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec 31	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan 1	closed, NEW YEAR
Thursday, Jan 2	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Friday, Jan 3	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan 4	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday, Jan 5	closed

# Christmas Religious Services

The chaplains of the Berlin-American Community announce the following Christmas Religious Services:

AMERICAN COMMUNITY CHAPEL	
Protestant	December 22 - 7 p.m. - Christmas Music Service
Catholic	December 24 - 7:30 p.m. - Service of Carols and Candlelight
December 24	11 a.m.-12 noon - Confessions
December 24	12:05 - Christmas Vigil Mass
December 24	5-6 p.m. - Confessions
December 24	6 p.m. - Children's Christmas Mass
December 24	11:30 p.m.-midnight - Carols
December 24	midnight - Midnight Mass
December 25	9 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass
December 25	noon - Christmas Day Mass
ANDREWS BARRACKS CHAPEL	
Protestant	December 22 - 10:40 a.m. - Christmas Sunday Service
December 24	6:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service

Catholic	December 24 - midnight - Midnight Mass
December 25	9:30 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass
December 25	noon - Christmas Day Mass

## HOSPITAL CHAPEL

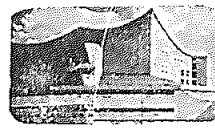
Catholic	December 25 - 11 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass
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## McNAIR BARRACKS CHAPEL

Protestant	December 24 7 p.m. - "Candles and Carols"
Catholic	December 24 - 5-6 p.m. - Confessions
December 24	10:30-11:30 p.m. - Confessions
December 24	midnight - Midnight Mass
December 25	10:15 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass

## TEMPELHOF CHAPEL

Protestant	December 24 - 8 p.m. - Service of Carols and Candlelight
Catholic	December 24 - midnight - Midnight Mass
December 25	10 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass



**PHILHARMONIE**  
Hergarten, Kemperplatz  
Tel: 261 43 83

December 20, 8 p.m. - Choir of Saint Hedwig Cathedral presents Weihnachtsliches Chorkonzert (Christmas Choir Concert). Conductor: Roland Bader. Bach - Brahms - Reger - Baumann

December 21, 22, 8 p.m. - Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductor: Yehudi Menuhin. Bach - Beethoven - Brahms

December 22, 11 a.m. - RIAS-Weihnachtskonzert (Christmas Concert) presented by the RIAS-Kammerchor and Radio-Symphonic-Orchester Berlin. Conductor: Uwe Gronostay. Salieri - Cimarosa - Bach

December 25, 8 p.m. - das sinfonie orchester berlin presents a Franz-Lehar-Concert. Conductor: Heinz Müller-Grassmann

December 26, 8 p.m. - das sinfonie orchester berlin presents Gershwin Concert. Conductor: Charles Axton, USA. Rhapsody in Blue - Porgy and Bess

December 27, 8 p.m. - das sinfonie orchester berlin presents Tchaikovsky Concert. Conductor: GMD Borislav Ivanov, Sofia

December 28, 8 p.m. - Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductor: Rainer Miedel. Schubert - Thärichen - Dvorak

December 29, 8 p.m. and January 1, 8 p.m. - das sinfonie orchester berlin presents Beethoven's 9th Symphony. Conductor: GMD Borislav Ivanov, Sofia

December 31, 7:30 p.m. and January 1, 4:30 p.m. - Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductor: Herbert von Karajan. Mozart - J. Strauss

January 5, 11 a.m.; January 6, 8 p.m. - Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductor: Herbert von Karajan. Haydn - R. Strauss

January 8, 8 p.m. - Choir and Orchestra of the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Field present Bach's H-Minor Mass

January 9, 8 p.m. - Puccini-Gala-Gedächtniskonzert presented by Symphonisches Orchester Berlin. Conductor: Franz Molin

January 10, 8:30 p.m. - Fiesta Gitana Spanish Gypsy Flamenco

January 11, 12, 8 p.m. - Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductor: Gennady Rozhdestvensky. Mahler Program

## THEATER DES WESTENS

Kantstrasse 12  
Tel: 313 72 50/93 20

Until December 22, daily at 3:30 p.m. - Hänsel und Gretel

Theater is closed on Christmas Eve

Through January 12, daily at 8 p.m. - except Monday - Meine Schwester und ich. Sunday performance begins at 7 p.m.

Beginning January 16, daily at 8 p.m. - except Monday - Die Csardasfürstin an operetta by Emmerich Kalman. Sunday performance begins at 7 p.m.

## HAUS DES RUNDFUNKS

Masurenallee 8-14  
Grosser Sendesaal  
Tel: 302 72 42

December 21, 6 p.m.; December 22, 11 a.m. - Nun singet und seid froh an SFB program presented by Steglitzer Kinderchor, Johannischer Chor, Steglitzer Jugendspielkreis, Ruhpolder Dirndl and others

January 12, 11 a.m.; January 13, 14, 8 p.m. - Radio-Symphonic-Orchester Berlin. Conductor: Hans Swarowsky. Luigi Boccherini - Anton Bruckner

## DEUTSCHLANDHALLE

Messedamm 26  
Tel: 3 03 11

Until December 31 - daily - Menschen, Tiere, Sensationen - the annual Circus Show

**EISSPORTHALLE**  
December 22, 3 p.m. - Ice Hockey Berlin vs Düsseldorf

December 30, 7:30 p.m. - Ice Hockey Friendship Game

January 1, 5 p.m. - International Indoor Team Handball Tournament

January 2, 7:30 p.m. - Ice Hockey Friendship Game

## HOCHSCHULE FÜR MUSIK

Hardenbergstrasse 33  
Tel: 31 63 83

December 26, 8 p.m. - Symphonisches Orchester Berlin. Conductor: Michael Heise. Mozart - Tchaikovsky - Beethoven

December 31, 4 p.m. - Symphonisches Orchester Berlin. Conductor: Hans Chemin-Petit. Beethoven Program

January 5, 11 a.m. - Konzert-Feierstunde

January 11, 8 p.m. - Symphonisches Orchester Berlin. Conductor: Toyoko Yamashita. Gluck - Schumann - Mendelssohn

January 12, 8 p.m. - Violin Recital by Andrej Korssakov, Moscow

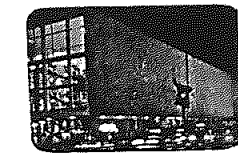
January 15, 8 p.m. - Hans-Eberhard Denter, violoncello and Arnulf von Arnim at the piano present Ludwig van Beethoven Program

January 16, 8 p.m. - Peter Howard, violoncello and Paul Schoenfeld at the piano present Sonatas by Beethoven - Debussy - Locatelli - Schoenfeld

January 17, 8 p.m. - Concert (Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Preis 1975). No admission will be charged

January 19, 8 p.m. - Song Recital by Theo Adam. Brahms - Wolff - Strauss - Schumann

January 24, 8 p.m. - PEDRO SOLER, Flamenco Guitar



**DEUTSCHE OPER BERLIN**

Bismarckstrasse  
Tel: 341 44 49

December 20, 7:30 p.m. - Otello (in Italian)

December 21, 7:30 p.m. - Hänsel und Gretel

December 22, 7 p.m. - Ein Maskenball (in Italian)

December 23, 7:30 p.m. - Otello (in Italian)

December 24 - NO PERFORMANCE

December 25, 7 p.m. - Ein Maskenball (in Italian)

December 26, 3 p.m. - Hänsel und Gretel PRIVATE PERFORMANCE

December 26, 7:30 p.m. - Hänsel und Gretel

December 27, 7:30 p.m. - Otello (in Italian)

December 28, 7 p.m. - Ein Maskenball (in Italian)

December 29, 7 p.m. - Die Fledermaus

December 30, 7 p.m. - BALLET NIGHT Dornröschen (The Sleeping Beauty)

December 31, 6:30 p.m. - Die Fledermaus

January 1, 7 p.m. - Eugen Onegin

January 2, 3 p.m. - Hänsel und Gretel (Private Performance)

January 2, 7:30 p.m. - Hänsel und Gretel

January 3, 7 p.m. - Die Fledermaus

January 4, 7 p.m. - Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)

January 5, 6:30 p.m. - Tannhäuser

January 6, 7:30 p.m. - Die Entführung aus dem Serail

January 7, 7 p.m. - Ein Maskenball

January 8, 7:30 p.m. - Tosca (in Italian)

January 9, 8 p.m. - BALLET NIGHT The Invitation / Symphony in C

January 10, 7 p.m. - Don Giovanni (in Italian)

January 11, 7:30 p.m. - Preussisches Märchen (Private Performance)

January 12, 6:30 p.m. - Tannhäuser

January 13, 7 p.m. - Ein Maskenball (in Italian)

January 14, 8 p.m. - BALLET NIGHT Der holzgeschnitzte Prinz / Pelleas und Melisande

January 15, 8 p.m. - Salome

January 16, 7 p.m. - Die Hochzeit des Figaro (in Italian)

January 17, 7 p.m. - Ein Maskenball (in Italian)

January 18, 7 p.m. - Don Giovanni (in Italian)

January 19, 6:30 p.m. - Tannhäuser

January 20, 7 p.m. - Don Giovanni (in Italian)

Program is subject to change

## A LOOK AT BERLIN...

**Church Music in December**  
Singing of Christmas Songs at 8 p.m. tonight. The Bach-Choir and Bach-Collegium is presenting "Süsser Trost, mein Jesus kommt" at 6 p.m. tomorrow night. On Thursday at 6 p.m. Christmas Organ Music will be played by KMD Paul Hoffmann presenting works by J. S. Bach, and on December 28 an Orgelvesper will be presented by Romo Feldbach at 6 p.m. All events take place at the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Memorial Church.



Tomorrow is the last Saturday of four when Berlin department stores will remain open until 6 p.m. for customers to do their last minute Christmas shopping. On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, all stores close at 2 p.m.

**ATTENTION MUSEUM-GOERS** - Museums will be closed on Dec. 24, 25, and 31. They will be open Dec. 26 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Jan. 1, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. On other days museums can be visited during regular hours. Starting with the New Year, Museum Dahlem will be open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., closed on Monday; Charlottenburg Museum will be open Saturday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and closed on Friday; die Antikenabteilung; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and will be closed on Friday. The Kunstbibliothek will be open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and will be closed on Sundays and holidays.

## HAVE A BALL IN BERLIN

Berlin Hilton - Christmas and New Year, Candlelight Dinners. - Charlottenburg, Masurenallee. Dec. 25, 8 p.m. Christmas Ball and Dec. 31, 8 p.m. New Year's Eve Ball.

Stadion-Terrassen - Charlottenburg, Stadionallee 2. Dec. 31, 8 p.m. New Year's Eve Ball. Advance tickets daily from 1-6 p.m., except December 22-26.

Prälat Schöneberg - Schöneberg, Hauptstrasse 122-124. Dec. 25, 3:30 p.m. Christmas Entertainment, Dec. 25, 8 p.m. Christmas Ball, Dec. 26, 8 p.m. Christmas Entertainment, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. New Year's Eve Ball. Advance reservations Monday through Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. Neue Welt on Hasenheide 108-114 (near U-Bahn station Hermannplatz). Dec. 31, 8 p.m. New Year's Eve Ball. Advance tickets daily at 5 p.m.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

# ON THE HOME FRONT...

**ALL AMERICAN RECREATION CENTER**  
Fri (December 20) - 6:30 p.m. - Crazy Christmas Puzzle  
7:30 p.m. - Trim the Tree  
8:30 p.m. - Crazy Christmas Puzzle  
9 p.m. - Carol Practice  
Sat 1 p.m. - Orphan's Christmas Party  
5:30 p.m. - Crazy Christmas Puzzle  
6 p.m. - Opera Tour "Hänsel and Gretel"  
8 p.m. - McNair Talent on Stage  
9 a.m. - Coffee Call with Berty  
Sun 10:30 a.m. - Crazy Christmas Puzzle  
2-4 p.m. - American Children's Christmas Party  
5 p.m. - Planetarium Tour "Star of Bethlehem"  
6 p.m. - Stocking Stuff  
7:30 and 8:30 p.m. - Crazy Christmas Puzzle  
Mon 1 p.m. - Santa's Workshop "Tasty Treats"  
2:30 and 4:30 p.m. - Crazy Christmas Puzzle  
6:30 p.m. - Christmas Caroling  
McNair Kaserne  
7:30 p.m. - Crazy Christmas Puzzle  
8 p.m. - "Christmas Comes to Sgt. Scrooge"  
Tue CHRISTMAS EVE  
1:30 p.m. - Crazy Christmas Puzzle  
2:30 p.m. - Christmas Scavenger Hunt  
4:30 p.m. - Crazy Christmas Puzzle  
6:30 p.m. - Santa Visits Spandau and BDe Guards  
6:30 p.m. - LAST CHANCE - Crazy Christmas Puzzle  
7 p.m. - Protestant Services, McNair Chapel  
8 p.m. - Christmas Open House  
8:30 p.m. - USO Show ICE  
9:30 p.m. - Crazy Christmas Auction  
midnight - Catholic Mass, McNair Chapel  
0:30 a.m. - Christmas Breakfast  
All American remains open until 2 a.m.  
Wed CHRISTMAS DAY  
9 a.m. - Coffee Call  
10:30 a.m. - Santa's Surprise  
noon - Christmas Cheer to Gate Guards  
2 p.m. - Christmas Carnival  
5 p.m. - Luscious Left-Overs  
7 p.m. - Bob Hope Films  
Thu 2 p.m. - 7-hour Marathon of Games  
5 p.m. - Soup 'n Snacks  
Fri (December 27) - 2:30 p.m. - TOUR Ice Skating rink  
3 p.m. - Darts Tournament  
8 p.m. - Games  
Sat 2 p.m. - Chess Tournament  
3 p.m. - Decorate for Holiday Dance  
8 p.m.-midnight - HOLIDAY DANCE  
Sun 9 a.m. - Coffee Call  
11 a.m. - Pinochle Tournament  
1 p.m. - TOUR West Berlin  
7:30 p.m. - Chili Supper  
Mon 2 p.m. - Hearts Tournament  
8 p.m. - December Birthday Party  
Tue (December 31) - 7:30 p.m. - Puzzling Puzzlers  
8 p.m. - 1975 Predictions  
8:30 p.m. - Turn-Over-A-New-Leaf  
9:30 p.m. - Write Your Own Resolution  
10 p.m. - Fortune Telling  
11 p.m. - Cook Your Own Breakfast  
midnight - HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wed NEW YEARS DAY  
9:30 a.m. - Coffee Call  
11 a.m. - New Year's Brunch  
2 p.m. - Friendly Neighbor Competition  
4 p.m. - World Wide Games  
5:30 p.m. - New Year's Surprise  
8 p.m. - New Year's Bowl Game  
HI-LITE RECREATION CENTER  
Fri (December 20) - 6 p.m. - The King's Men - Chess  
7 p.m. - Christmas Tree Decorating Party  
Sat 1 p.m. - FSB Children's Christmas Party  
6 p.m. - Opera Tour to "Hänsel and Gretel"  
7 p.m. - Darts Tournament  
8 p.m. - Toast your own Marshmallows  
Sun 9:30 a.m. - Advent Candle Coffee Call  
10 a.m. - Make your own Pancakes  
11 a.m. - Pinochle Tournament  
2 p.m. - Puzzle People  
6 p.m. - Did you see what you saw?  
8 p.m. - Tournament Request  
Mon 3 p.m. - Christmas Kitchen Party  
7 p.m. - Caroling Tour  
9 p.m. - Dominoes Tournament  
9 p.m. - Hot Chocolate and Cookies  
Tue 2 p.m. - Christmas Jumbles  
4 p.m. - Do you know your Christmas Carols?  
5 p.m. - Holiday Brunch  
7 p.m. - Musical Package  
9 p.m. - Egg nog party  
10 p.m. - Bob Hope films  
midnight - Midnight Mass  
1 a.m. - Christmas Breakfast  
Wed CHRISTMAS DAY  
9:30 a.m. - Christmas Coffee Call  
10 a.m. - Christmas Surprise  
11 a.m. - White Elephant Trading Post  
1 p.m. - Mystery Gift Revealed  
3 p.m. - Christmas Customs  
5 p.m. - Christmas Buffet  
7 p.m. - Christmas Musical Games  
8 p.m. - USO Show upstairs  
Thu 2 p.m. - Pinochle Tournament  
7 p.m. - Spades Tournament  
8 p.m. - What's your Guess?  
Fri (December 27) - 2 p.m. - Ice Skating Tour  
6 p.m. - The King's Men - Chess  
7 p.m. - Fussball Tournament  
2 p.m. - Spades Tournament  
Sat 5 p.m. - Cribbage Tournament  
6 p.m. - Risk Tournament  
7 p.m. - Hearts Tournament  
8 p.m. - Darts Tournament  
Sun 9:30 a.m. - Holiday Coffee Call  
10 a.m. - Make your own Pancakes  
11 a.m. - Pinochle Tournament  
1:15 p.m. - Free Tour of West Berlin  
2 p.m. - Table Tennis Tournament  
6 p.m. - Fussball Tournament  
8 p.m. - Puzzle People  
Mon 6 p.m. - Holiday Crosswords  
8 p.m. - Spades Tournament  
Tue (December 31) - 6 p.m. - New Year's Losers  
9 p.m. - Silver Dime Soloon  
11 p.m. - Egg Nog  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
Wed NEW YEARS DAY  
9:30 a.m. - New Year's Coffee Call  
11 a.m. - Pancakes  
11 a.m. - New Year's Surprise  
2 p.m. - New Year's Bowl Game  
5 p.m. - Buffet

**CLUB 50**  
Fri (December 20) - 9 p.m.-1 a.m. - The Mysteries  
Sat 8 p.m.-1 a.m. - The Q  
Sun 7-11 p.m. - Statesiders  
Thu 7-11 p.m. - Statesiders  
Fri (December 27) - 8 p.m.-1a.m. - KOF  
Sat 8 p.m.-1 a.m. - Pegasus  
Sun 7-11 p.m. - The Edsels  
Tue (December 31) - 9 p.m.-2 p.m. - KOF  
**STARLIGHT GROVE**  
Fri (December 20) - 8:30 p.m.-0:30 a.m. - KOF  
Sat 8:30 p.m.-0:30 a.m. - Statesiders  
Fri (December 27) - 8:30 p.m.-0:30 a.m. - The Edsels  
Sat 8:30 p.m.-0:30 a.m. - Country Squires  
Tue (December 31) - 9 p.m.-2 a.m. - The Prophets  
**FRIENDSHIP LOUNGE**  
Fri (December 20) - 8:30 p.m.-0:30 a.m. - Statesiders  
Sat 8:30 p.m.-0:30 a.m. - The Prophets  
Fri (December 27) - 8:30 p.m.-0:30 a.m. - Statesiders  
Sat 8:30 p.m.-0:30 a.m. - Sun Explosion  
Tue (December 31) - 9 p.m.-2 a.m. - Sun Explosion  
**HARNACK HOUSE**  
Fri (December 20) - 9 p.m.-1 a.m. - The Prophets  
Fri (December 27) - 9 p.m.-1 a.m. - Sun Explosion  
Tue (December 31) - 9 p.m.-1 a.m. - Fred Nopper Trio  
**GATOR CLUB**  
Tue (December 31) - 9 p.m.-2 a.m. - Statesiders  
**TCA SILVER WINGS NCO CLUB**  
Fri (December 20) - The Edsels  
DISCO with John Michael  
Sat 9 p.m.-2 a.m. - KOF  
Tue Dining Room CLOSED - Wed Dining Room CLOSED - Thu Dining Room CLOSED - Fri (December 27) - 9 p.m.-2 a.m. - The Country Squires DISCO with Bobby Jones  
Sat 9 p.m.-2 a.m. - The Extract  
Sun 8 p.m.-midnight - DISCO with Bobby Jones  
Tue (December 31) - 9 p.m.-2 a.m. - NEW YEARS EVE GALA RESERVATIONS ONLY - The Country Squires and Pegasus  
**KONTAKT**  
Fri (December 20) - 7 p.m. - Karate  
McNair Gym  
Sat 5:30 p.m. - Saddle Club  
6 p.m. - Caroling and Party  
BAHS  
Mon 6 p.m. - Swimming Andrews Pool  
7 p.m. - Volleyball McNair  
7:30 p.m. - Bowling No. 2 McNair  
Fri (December 27) - 7 p.m. - Karate  
McNair Gym  
Sat 5:30 p.m. - Saddle Club  
8 p.m. - Holiday Dance All American Rec Center  
Mon 6 p.m. - Swimming Andrews Pool  
7 p.m. - Volleyball McNair  
7:30 p.m. - Bowling No. 2 McNair  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

## From the U. S. Commander, Berlin

*Christmas and New Years is a combined celebration of the past and future. On one hand, we celebrate the birth of Christ nearly 2,000 years ago and give thanks for His blessings and the gift of life. We reflect on past accomplishments and failures. On the other hand, we look to the New Year with all of its opportunities. It is a time to rededicate ourselves to the principle that "Peace on Earth, Goodwill toward Men," is more than a wish, but in fact, a possibility.*

*May this holiday season bring joy to you and your loved ones and may you take great pride in knowing that through your efforts in Berlin, you are serving your country and mankind in the search of world peace.*

*To all members of the Berlin American Community, to our British and French Allies; and to our German friends, my warmest personal holiday wishes for a joyous Christmas and a happy and rewarding New Year.*

SAM S. WALKER  
Major General, USA  
Commanding



## From the Commander, Berlin Brigade

*The coming of the holiday season is always a time of happiness and reflection. At year's end we take stock of ourselves, our hopes, and our accomplishments. We exchange gifts among family and friends, and we reflect on gifts given and received over the past year — gifts of health and prosperity, love and friendship, peace and goodwill.*

*This year has been another in which our vigilance and determination to defend our way of life has been rewarded, for American soldiers are not committed to battle anywhere in the world. We in Berlin can celebrate the holiday season with the knowledge that, by being here, we are contributing to maintaining world peace and to ensuring the freedom and security of our home, our family, and our friends.*

*To all members of the Berlin Brigade and their families, our comrades throughout the U. S. Command, our allies in the British and French forces, and our German friends here in Berlin, I extend best wishes for a most blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

R. DEAN TICE  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

## THANK YOU

*During the past year the Berlin Observer has tried to inform our readers of what is going on throughout the Berlin-American community. This could not have been done if not for the help of many people that submitted stories or contacted us with story information. We would like to take this time to express our thanks for a job well done, and a hope that your support will continue in the new year.*

*The Observer staff extends its greetings to everyone for a very merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.*

Bob Spink  
Editor

*The Berlin Observer wishes to thank Foto-Radio-Wegert for donating the color pictures used on pages 1 and 12 of our Christmas edition.*

