

Berlin, Sept. 27, 1990

Dear Mary and Geofolks,

It has been quite an experience moving a family to Germany but the transition has gone remarkably well. I can only hope that the move back to the states will go as smoothly. Thank you for the mail. I have received a letter from Mary and 3 or 4 packages of forwarded mail. The five boxes arrived here a couple of weeks ago but the boxes of books did not make it in one piece. They had put the contents in bags but everything made it. I am including the change of grade for Hani Alkhadra who was reinstated after being administratively withdrawn. Luckily, I still had the grades from last year on the computer. Mary, could you look on some past Apple orders and find our Apple Developer Number (upper-left corner of Apple order form) and give it to Shirley Petrowski. She needs to add it to a recertification form.

There are numerous ways of reaching me. My university address is: Geowissenschaften - Fachrichtung Kartographie, Arno-Holz-str. 12, D-1000 Berlin 41 The phone number for the secretary downstairs is (0049) 30 838 38 92. My home address is: Brandenburgischestr. 29, D-1000 Berlin 41 and phone, that took six weeks to install, is (0049) 30 796 97 45. The main building of the Geowissenschaften complex is next door and they recently acquired a FAX machine but until now it only works on incoming calls (0049) 30 838 48 42. I will send a FAX to the department as soon as they get it working in that direction. The time difference is 7 hours, depending upon daylight savings time change which hasn't happened yet.

BITNET? I have been trying to work this out but it seems that not all messages are getting through. So far, I have received one message from Roger and 4 from Jeff. The problem may be that the university here does not have a BITNET address. My x.400 or INTERNET address is: PETERSON@GEOWISSENSCHAFT.FU-BERLIN.DBP.DE. I will continue to try to work the bugs out of this connection as it would be the cheapest and simplest. It seems to take about 5 hours for an INTERNET message to make it here.

Now, something of our experiences here. Certainly, having a family makes the entire experience of living in a foreign country completely different. Sarah is very happy with her German school and doing well although she has said no more than 'Dankeschön.'. Even with the language barrier, she has told us that she wants to stay here probably because school is usually out by 12:40 (11:35 on Monday; 13:30 Wednesday because of recorder lessons). As of Oct. 1 she will go to a day care center after school until 3:00pm, mostly to learn German. We are taking advantage of the social services here. The day care includes lunch - the main meal here - and costs only \$30 a month!

Amelia talks of 'Omaha, Nebraska' but her memories are fading, as they do quickly with a 3 year old. With considerable effort, we found her a pre-school that she will attend from 9-12, Monday-Friday - also \$30 a month but without lunch. She is very happy to be finally doing what her sister is doing but she doesn't understand why her school doesn't give homework.

Running a household is a difficult and expensive matter here, as Kathy is discovering. At the beginning of September we washed 3 loads of clothes at a laundromat and at \$4 a load and drying, it cost \$18. We figured that if we did that every week for the next 45 weeks we would be spending \$810. It took us three weeks but we decided to buy a used washer and dryer for far less than that. Kathy is now working through the backlog of clothes.

Grocery shopping is also not easy. Most things are twice as expensive, or more. The cheaper grocery store, ALDI, is so crowded with East Germans that I go along just to carve out a path. Only potatoes seem to be less expensive - \$0.66 for 11 pounds. Luncheon meat can be as high as \$11.50 a pound and hamburger is \$6.60 a pound. Milk is \$3.70 a gallon but yoghurt is about the same price. Gas is \$3.45 a gallon.

I have an office to myself within the cartographic institute here. The office has a large window with a view of a garden, two skylight windows and a porch. The institute is housed in an older single family structure much like Annex 15. It is exactly what I like. The Mac is working fine but access to a printer is difficult. I am hoping that I can still get my printer to work here - it only accepts 110v. The only thing I miss is having a computer at home and being able to work at night. TV is not worth watching.

The institute is part of the geo- branch of the university ('Geowissenschaften') that includes Geography (Physical, Anthro and School), Geology and Cartography. The geographers are all next door. The geologists are on another street far away (the whole university is scattered over a 10 sq. mile residential area). The facilities are excellent although there is a shortage of microcomputers, especially Macs. The cartographic darkroom facilities are housed in a building by itself and are extremely good. There are 4 people that work in the photographic section. All together, there are about 12 people in cartography with 6 of those being professors or instructors. They place much more emphasis on human resources than we do. The institute has its own library - totally devoted to cartography and I am finding it very nice to have everything in one room.

The joining of the Germanys is having an effect on the Freie Universität. The traditional large university of Berlin, The Humboldt Univeristy, was in East Berlin. Now, there will be a joining of the two universities. Geowissenschaften will be split up. The current chair of Geowissenschaften here, one of the cartographers, has proposed splitting off the geology division and sending them to E. Berlin because as he says "they can't mess that up too badly." There is a feeling that they could not teach human geography because this instruction has been impregnated with Marxist ideas and they could not handle the technology that is currently associated with cartography. Perhaps physical geography will go as well.

I will be teaching a class beginning on the 24th of October (see attached outline). A translation of the title is: 'Developments in Computer Cartography.' It basically encompasses all of my interests beginning with cartographic communication and ending with a discussion of user-interfaces and cartographic animation, with a review of GIS and computer hardware in between. It will be interesting but exhausting to teach in another language. The course was only announced a week ago and already eight people have signed-up. It's expected to have over 20.

I am viewed here by some of the students and professors as ushering in a renaissance in computer cartography based on the Macintosh. There is a great deal of interest in adapting to this new technology, especially from the map design aspect. In the past, they have done a considerable amount of computer cartography on a CDC mainframe and their own system based on the UNIX operating system (a CADMUS system and a generic 68020 computer, built in Berlin) and numerous Tektronix terminals. The microcomputers are mostly PC's. There is both a recognition that these systems are needlessly complex and a willingness to change to something more 'useful.'

Professors are the same everywhere and it is not difficult to categorize them here. It is interesting to observe a department from the outside and to sense those professors that are noticeably respected by students and their colleagues and those that are less so. A coffee hour is held every morning at 11am and includes the professors, advanced students, the various technicians and the secretary. This social time seems to keep the department together. I suppose we would view it as a waste of time.

October 3 is also the 'Tag der Einigung' - Day of Unification and will be a national holiday here. After this day, East Germany will no longer exist. It will be interesting to see how it is celebrated because everyone already realizes that the cost of the unification will be quite high. I hope you noticed that the Germans are paying the Soviet Union for the resettlement of the Soviet occupation forces in East Germany back to the Soviet Union. That cost (\$5 billion) will be minimal compared to the re-building of East Germany.

Although we have a front seat window on an amazing transition from a communist to a capitalist system - a revolution, in a sense, West Berlin is still relatively sheltered from the area around it and the changes are difficult to perceive. East Germany is amazingly peaceful considering all of the problems that they face. On July 1, all East Germans with bank accounts with over 2,000 east Marks (funny money) were given 2,000 west Marks (hard money). That sparked an instant market economy. Used car lots, selling cars from the west, sprang on almost every corner. Little eating stands are also everywhere selling wurst and french fries. It is difficult to imagine what will happen when the money runs out. Certainly, the market economy

will not be sufficiently established to take-over.

The collective farm system has virtually wiped out farmers in the sense that we have them. People who work on a farm are a part of a collective and have only one or two duties. Only the very old farmers remember how to farm in our sense. It is likely that this collective farming system will remain but in another form.

There is also a great deal of friction between the East and West Germans. The westerners complain that the people from the east just wait around until they are told what to do - that they have no self- initiative. They also complain that the people from the east are dishonest in the sense that they don't say what they think or what they have done. Certainly, the people from the east adapted to their form of government and that will be evident for some time to come. We have heard the opinion among some of the West Germans that the wall should be put-up again and that life was better before the wall came down. This opinion is not common and most Germans are elated with the changes that have occurred since last November. One of the odd problems caused by the wall coming down is that animals with rabies (a disease that the E.Germans never brought under control) can now come into W. Berlin and a couple of people have been bitten already by foxes with rabies. The wall interrupted both the human and the natural environment.

One of necessary aspects of a such a drastic change in government (revolution) is the stripping of power from individuals. The germans call this a 'Reinigungs Prozeß' or cleaning process. Of course, this cleaning process is never complete and some people that benefitted from the previous regime are remaining in power. Obviously, they had certain talents that could not be easily 'cleaned away.' The purging process is affecting more those individuals who rode on the 'coat-tails,' who benefitted from the previous regime but had little administrative or social skills themselves.

From Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, the entire family will be in Bonn for a Fulbright meeting - all expenses paid. Apparently, there are less than 50 Fulbright professors from the United States in Germany this year. It should be interesting to see what everyone is doing. The only other Fulbright prof in Berlin this year is from Princeton and is teaching American Literature in english at the JFK Institute, an english speaking part of the Freie Universität.

All for now. I hope everything is going well there.

-Mike