Around the World
with *Stan Delaplane*

BERLIN, EAST AND WEST — I asked a newspaperman friend to take a tourist walk into East Berlin at night and this is how to do it:

"I took a cab at Checkpoint Charlie which is a piece of street laid out zig-zag fashion. In a car you must go a few yards left, a few yards right and so on. It is edged by concrete walls three feet high at the zig and zag. Barbed wire and, behind that, three pieces of steel like tent poles.

"On the left-hand side of the street are two long buildings. A half dozen sergeants and officers in ours which comes first.

"The American sergeant checked my papers. Gave me dos and don'ts to read. Had me fill out an identification form.

"He said: 'You know you're on your own when you get over there. They try to make it tough on Americans particularly, so take it easy.'

("There is no phone line between East and West Berlin. If you land in the clink, you can't just call up the bail bond broker.")

"You can't take any books or newspapers with you. Now, you walk a hundred yards under bright lights to the Russian shack.

"They looked over my passport — lot of smirks and laughter. I had to count out all my West German money and buy an East German 5 bill. You have to come back with West German money intact. Any East German money left, they confiscate. You will get another identification form, all in German.

"Now you exit into a dimly lighted street. Few people around. Machine guns on the roof tops. I walked a few blocks to a lighted building—a restaurant. Russian officers, civilians. All dirty looks. No smiles. After being read off by the waiter for not speaking German, he said in English: 'Do you want salami and bread?'

"I had it. Paid off (a tip drew no thanks). Walked around deserted streets. Came back and checked through Checkpoint Charlie, cursing. The American sergeant said: 'See? I told you so.'"

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"What about the Rhine steamers?"

"I was only on this for one day. All Rhine wine and squeezebox music and a pretty river. The full trip — Rotterdam to Basil, Switzerland — is five days. Overnight stops in Rhine towns. You have to sign up for at least two days of this — and maybe that's enough. Fares start at $20 a day.

Germany is inexpensive—$8 to $10 for first-class hotels. Prettiest country is the Black Forest with little cuckoo clock villages and Hansel and Gretel country inns. Good food, great wines, excellent beer.

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"If we are in Berlin this year, can we visit East Berlin?"

You don't have to do it as above. At your hotel you can find out about the three-hour guided tour by bus — about $3.

You leave all books and magazines and your West German guide at Checkpoint Charlie. An East German guide takes over. Mostly propaganda talks about how much better people do in East Germany. But an enlightening trip. Especially the blocks of rubble still not cleaned up.

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"We are carrying a thousand dollars in travelers' checks. But for safety, what can you do if these run out?"

In England, if you have a Bank of America credit card, the Barclay's bank chain will give you 25 pounds on sight and signature. You can repeat at every Barclay's you see. American Express credit cards get you $125 on your personal check at any of their offices. Or you wire home for money.

If you are buying anything expensive — (like a Swiss watch)) — I found all shops quite agreeable to taking a personal check. As high as $700 once. Saves you using up your travel checks.

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"Would you advise a letter of credit?"

No. I carried one once, and it was a shambles of red tape. No cash on weekends when banks are closed. Much signing of papers and going from window to window — in a language I couldn't speak or read. That's too much trouble every time you want a hundred dollars of local money. Travel checks cash anywhere. And on weekends at your hotel, too.

Sales Parley

Frank P. Jelsma and Walerian Pazanowski, both of Torrance, and their wives were selected to attend an international sales conference of the Allstate Insurance Company in Miami Beach, according to Raymond A. Rodeno, regional manager.

MARY WISE

Don't panic when you are planning to serve leftovers to the family at a time when your youngster invited visitors to stay for dinner. Even though it's a quarter to seven, slip on your most hospitable smile and quietly send the little offender down to the market to buy Lascco De Luxe Shrimp Cocktails. They are in a delicatessen department, and are ready to serve in lovely little cocktail glasses. Without fuss and bother, simply extend your meal by serving this table-ready appetizer.

There will be times when you want to serve something a little extra to expected guests. However, you've already used up your time-budget. Again, you can glamorize your meal in a simple work-free way. Start the meal with Lascco De Luxe Shrimp Cocktail. The shrimp are plump, juicy, perfectly cooked and surrounded by a tantalizing seasoned tomato cocktail sauce.

To serve, simply place the cocktail glass in the center of your best china. Garnish with parsley and a lemon wedge. The secret of this cocktail is the quality of the ingredients. Firm, ripe tomatoes, delicious, meaty shrimp, pure, fresh lemon juice and selected spices are chosen in the preparation of this table-ready appetizer.

If you have the time, additional zest may be provided by mixing chopped celery and horseradish to taste in the ready-to-serve glasses.

Guest Minister

While the Rev. Robert Loring Young is in Berkeley attending a retreat, the Rev. Neal K. McGowan of the Disciples of Christ Church will be guest pastor of the Wayfarers' Chapel, Portuguese Bend.

Open McCarthy Headquarters

Presidential headquarters for Eugene McCarthy has been opened at 726 W. Anaheim Blvd., Wilmington.

The official opening will be held April 29 from 3 to 10 p.m. A campaign speaker will give an address at 8.

Floyd Mattson, campaign chairman, has extended a cordial invitation to the public to attend.