

THE LANCE



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ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

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Remembering Brunnenburg

1985

By Heidi Jernigan

Last spring twelve St. Andrews' students were already looking forward to the fall semester. Now the twelve of us can only look back on a plethora of memories which remain from a once in a lifetime semester at Brunnenburg Castle.

Brunnenburg Castle is located in the Italian Alps. This northern region is referred to as the "Sudtirol" and was once a part of Austria. The majority of the people speak German as their first language, so in preparation for our trip we took a crash course in German at Fort Bragg. We reassembled in August at Kennedy Airport in New York City to make the flight to Zurich where we were met by our two St. Andrews' professors, Tom and Kate Blackburn, and their son Michael.

As we caught our first glimpse of Brunnenburg I think we all felt the same surprise and excitement. Pictures we had seen and descriptions from previous "Brunnenburgers" had not even begun to do justice to the castle and its surroundings. Even now, as I write, I realize that my words too will miss the mark.

The castle is located above the city of Merano ("above" in this sentence refers to altitude). Merano is a busy city, except during the two hour siesta taken by all Italians at mid-day. One of the most important means of income to the area is tourism. There are many events to keep the predominantly German tourists busy such as ice hockey, kyack races, and the steeplechase.

Brunnenburg lies directly below the village of Dorf Tirol. The 'Dorf' relies on tourism as its main source of income also. The average tourist tends to be a middle-aged, German speaking person. The people of Dorf Tirol had been expecting our arrival, and we found them to be quite friendly. Many of the Brunnenburgers made nightly excursions to the ice cream parlors in the Dorf. We became a part of life in Dorf Tirol.

The castle itself is the thing fairy tales are made of. Over 600 years old, Brunnenburg Castle had fallen into ruin before its acquisition by the Prince Boris de Rachewiltz and the Princess Mary de Rachewiltz. Architectural highlights of the castle include two remaining towers (a third collapsed some years ago), an enormous window in the Rittersaal which provides a gorgeous view of the valley, a family chapel, the Ezra Pound Room which contains some of Pound's personal belongings, and an agricultural museum which is open to tourists.

The students reside in a farmhouse which has undergone dramatic changes in recent years. It

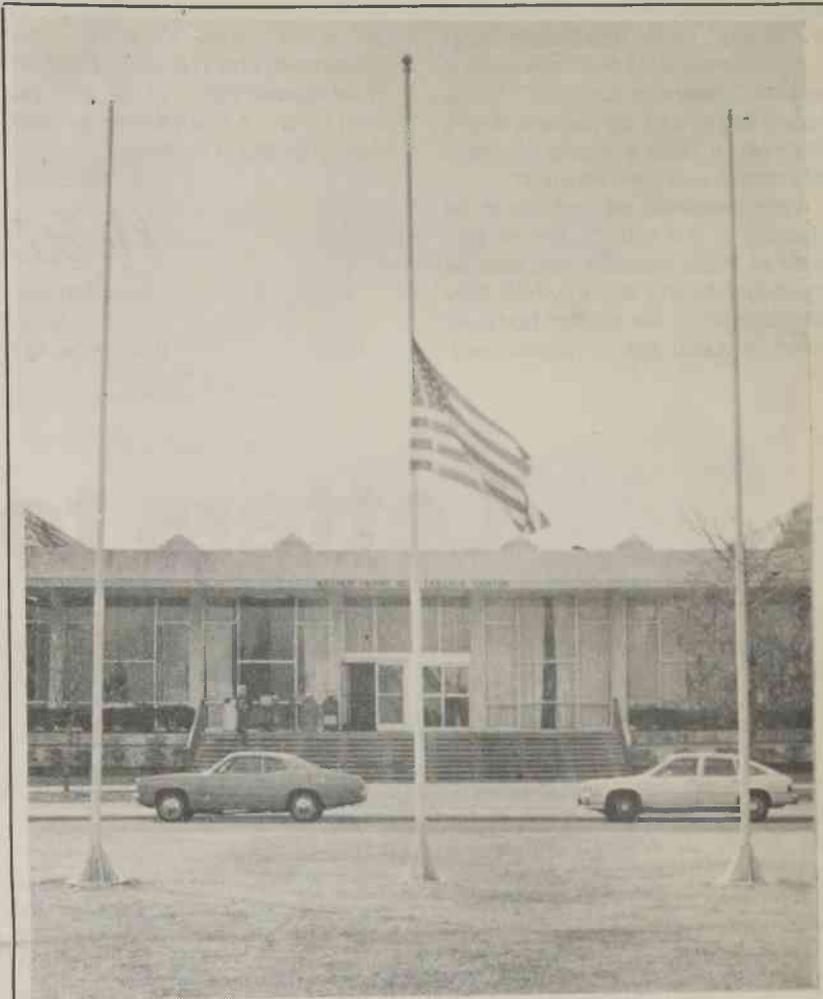
is a fun as well as comfortable place to live, and yes, there is hot water! Two students share a room and two smaller rooms are designated as privates. Meals are taken in the farmhouse or in the kitchen of Brigitta de Rachewiltz who prepares terrific meals for her twelve 'adopted' kids.

But we did go to Brunnenburg to study. Dr. Tom Blackburn taught a literature course dealing with the works of Thomas Mann, Franz Kafka, and Thomas Pynchon. Kate Blackburn instructed a course on travel writing, and each student completed a writing project pertaining to his/her experiences abroad. Sizzo de Rachewiltz, the grandson of Pound, led us on weekly field trips to places of importance to the Tyrolian culture. Visits were made to watermills, a feltmill, a blacksmith, and a winery. We hope to see Sizzo on our own campus in the spring of 1986. Mary de Rachewiltz, Ezra Pound's daughter, conducted a very special reading of THE CANTOS by Pound. This year was very special because we were there to celebrate the one hundredth year since Pound's birth. We saw the road leading to the castle renamed "Ezra Pound Weg," and a special showing of Pound's works were put on display in Merano. Teas and luncheons held in Mary's apartment or garden were always special as we all came to feel very close to the wonderful lady who had opened her home to us.

Every Tuesday was workday at the castle, and it was that day that many of us looked forward to the most. Jobs ranged from picking pears and apples, to stacking firewood. The event of the semester was the grape harvest and the making of the castle wine.

However, if education took place only in the classroom then there would be no need to go abroad. Each of us improved our German vocabulary and we found much to learn from the people we encountered. Group trips were made to Innsbruck, Rome, Florence, Venice, Munich (during Oktoberfest), Dachau (the first Nazi concentration camp), and a weeks stay in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Students traveled on their own to places such as Ravenna, Milan, Verona, Berlin, Brussels, Vienna, Paris, London And Lucerne. As a matter of fact one student stayed in Europe traveling by herself for over a month.

Brunnenburg added something special to all of our lives. If you are interested in going to Brunnenburg talk to someone who's been and/or to Bob Martin, who dropped in to visit us at Brunnenburg this year.



We Remember

Photo by Jim Schmid

Astronauts Gregory Jarvis, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Judith Resnik, Francis Scobee, Michael Smith and Teacher Krista McAuliffe.

What's Inside . . .

Keeping GANZA Afloat

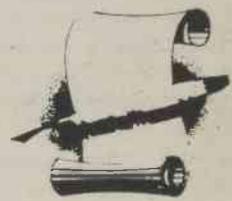
Housekeeping:
Working to Study

Toxic Waste Dump:
To Be Or Not To Be?

Perkinson Reflects on
Visit to South Africa

Spring Sports Schedules

and MORE . . .



Special Thanks to Mystery Phone Caller

The Administration would like to say "Thank You" to the anonymous phone caller who reported a brush fire on campus. The fire broke out on February 4th near the water treat-

ment plant between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. Early detection prevented what might have been a very serious problem. Whoever you are, thanks for taking the time to care and respond!