

With Great Satisfaction

It's hard to believe that the German School will soon be celebrating 60 years. In 1968, I joined the staff there in my early 30s—it seems like yesterday. The school was in its seventh year of existence and was located on Logan Drive in Potomac, Maryland. I have chronicled my 35 years at the German School in an article published in the 50th Anniversary Festschrift (“A Teacher Remembers: DSW 1968-1996”). After I retired in 1996, I very much missed going into a classroom and interacting with the students in a teaching-learning environment, but my retirement has, nevertheless, been rewarding. In the last week of July, I celebrated my 90th birthday.

Frankly, it surprised me! Why have I been so blessed? I never expected to live this long. My good mother lived to be 96, and I suppose I take after her. But my father and all my five siblings have died; all my many, many first cousins are gone; and I lost three nephews and a dear niece.

But life has been good to me, and I look back to many fond memories. Even having been drafted into the U.S. Army turned out to be a godsend! After the six weeks of basic training, I was sent to Germany, and there, because I had a university degree, I was made the Personnel Clerk of a company. And did I make use of that!

I travelled around Europe, got to know different countries, and, when I ended my military service and was honorably discharged, I qualified for the GI Bill that gave me a stipend for graduate studies. I used these funds for two years at Penn State, two years at the University of

Munich, and two years at the University of Göttingen.

So, it turned out to be the best that could have happened. It also did wonders for me in mastering German. I still speak German with a friend per telephone, each evening! She is kind, and says that my German is perfect, but I know it isn't. It's not bad, but it isn't perfect!

With great satisfaction, I often hear from my former students, who pay me the compliment that my teaching has made a difference in their lives. So, on the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the German School, I hope that students might also say that the DSW has made a positive difference in their lives.

Happy Birthday DSW!

George Padaroff
English Teacher and Dept. Chairman, retired
German School Washington DC
DSW: 1968-1996



*George Padaroff and Peter Dreher
Potomac, Maryland, 2017*