

Richard “Dick” Gauthier
Lubeck 1958 – 1959
MOS: 988 Russian Linguist

1959



2000



I was a Russian 988 stationed in Lubeck from January 1958 until September 1959. I roomed with Don Meyer on the 2nd floor at Zwinglstrasse in the corner room until about April 1959, when I was moved into the Reuterkrug Hotel. We both went to Wolfsburg and brought new VWs back to Lubeck with us.

The Army shipped my little bug home for me, and I met it in Ft. Hamilton, NY (Brooklyn) after a wonderful 9 day cruise on the USNS Upshur, the 5 star cruise ship I had traveled on in August of 1957. After discharge, spent a week sightseeing in New York, then began the long trip back home to California. After visiting an ALS class R-6 41 friend, Bob Weissner, in Washington, DC, the VW and I headed south for Louisiana and Texas, to visit relatives on the way home. I listened to the new LA Dodgers skunk the Chicago White Sox in the 1959 World Series while driving across the vast wastelands of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Arriving home in October of 1959, I knew that I had to get my four year college degree. I had been to a Junior College for 5 semesters before the Army. Since I had been writing to a girl in Berkeley for the 2 years I was overseas, I decided to apply to U. of California, Berkeley. Well, I was accepted as a junior, and they gave me 9 units for my Army Language School Russian, completely satisfying the language requirement. My education worked out just fine, finishing my upper division work in 3 semesters, being able to graduate in June 1961. The romance part with my pen pal went nowhere, luckily, but a few months later I met and began to date a beautiful Canadian nurse, Geri Lee, who had come down to work for 6 months in California. Well, the six months now has turned into 41 years. We were married in her hometown in eastern Canada on July 1, 1961, honeymooned at a fishing lodge on Otter Lake, and drove the little VW back to California.

Since my mom was then dying of cancer, we moved down to Inglewood, my hometown. Geri, the nurse, got employment at a local hospital, and after a couple of weeks, I accepted employment with Allstate Insurance Company in Pasadena. After about 4 months of driving the freeway and since my mom had to be put into a nursing home, we moved to Pasadena. After mom died in March 1962, and our daughter Laurie was born, we bought our first home in Altadena, where Steve was born on November 21, 1963, the night before the JFK assassination. We ended up living in four different homes in Altadena before moving out to the Palm Springs area (La Quinta) in 1998.

I retired from Allstate in late 1994, after some 33 ½ years of service and I am still doing little part time jobs inspecting homes for Allstate. My hobby is my motorcycle, a Honda GL 1500 Gold Wing, and I belong to a great motorcycle club that has great weekly rides and a social schedule for non riding wives (Geri) which allows everyone to meet. We both look forward to seeing all wonderful Lubeck friends in November 2001 out here in the desert for “2001 – A Desert Odyssey”