

### **ICASSI 1985, Fulda, West Germany**

Prior to the official opening, the gracious hosts, Theo and Antonia Schoenaker, and the local villagers prepared a warm “Wilkommen” to ICASSI 1985. This occurred the day of Board and staff meetings, in the Rudolf Dreikurs Social Therapy Institute built by the Schoenakers and located at the edge of the peaceful village of Züntersbach.

Participants came by car and train to Fulda, one hour from the international airport of Frankfurt. Train travellers remember that from Fulda the trains went non-stop through East Germany to Berlin. Other impressions of Fulda include: historic beginning in 1744 as a center of religion and learning, where German evolved as a literary language; The Golden Age of Baroque Architecture; of Frankish culture north of the Alps; and the present quality of life in a beautifully green natural environment. The shops in this town of 60,000 were within easy walking distance from hotels and classes.



The Kolpinghaus Hotel, built originally for the career training of young people, was the center for Bloc 1 lectures and demonstrations, informal evening singing, dancing, classical music, children and youth program, birth order Olympics and other activities in which adults and children of the 16 countries participated during the two weeks of international cultural exchange.



Participants also stayed in small hotels nearby, walking and cycling to classes in the center, exploring the surrounding countryside.

Some other highlights of ICASSI in Fulda were the offering of a new class, the Old-Timers Group for many-time attendees, and the much appreciated local tours arranged by the German participants and staff members: the East German border with its barbed wire fences, one of the stopping points of a tour led by well-known translator, Gunter Maltz; visits to the Tann Open-Air Museum showing life and custom of Rhine peasants; walks on a long hand-built boardwalk; and time spent sitting with local residents at long tables under huge tents in a park, enjoying typical entertainment of songs and dances. The sentries inside the fences were a sad reminder of how far our Western world was from peace and friendly co-existence.



As this ICASSI drew to a close, many participants began to anticipate ICASSI 1986 in Vancouver, Canada which was also hosting Expo '86.