

# BRAVO

Wie  
Jungen  
lieben

Sonderbericht  
über  
Mark Slade

Billy Blue  
zu Gast  
bei  
BRAVO

France Gall:  
So sieht der  
Mann aus, auf  
den ich warte

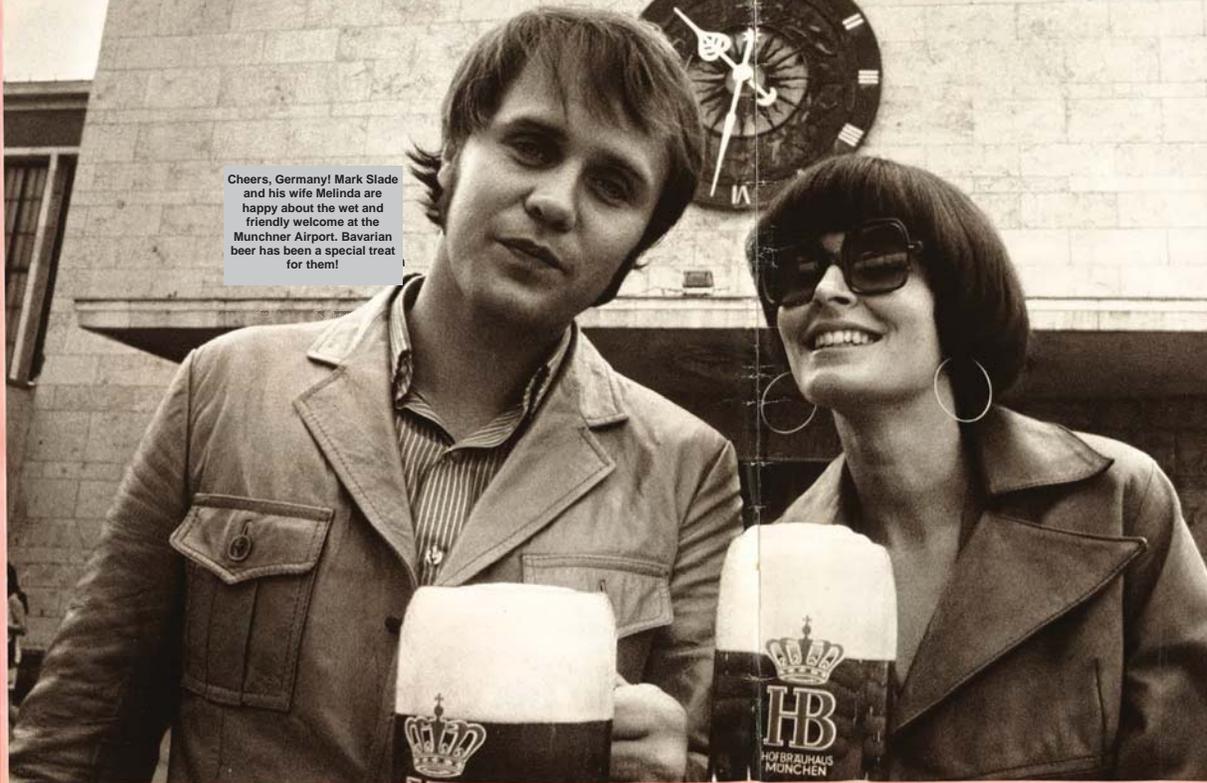
Uschi Glas



FLUGHAFEN MÜNCHEN



Cheers, Germany! Mark Slade and his wife Melinda are happy about the wet and friendly welcome at the Munchner Airport. Bavarian beer has been a special treat for them!



For a week, "Billy Blue" Mark Slade was a guest of BRAVO:

## A cowboy travels through Germany

When Mark Slade came to Germany, he brought along a suitcase with his cowboy costume. When Mark left Germany after seven days, he took a suitcase full of memories. Memories of the Teenage Fair in Dusseldorf, memories of his stay in Bavaria. Mark has opened his memory suitcase for BRAVO. Have a look!



"Billy Blue" wrote in his travel book:

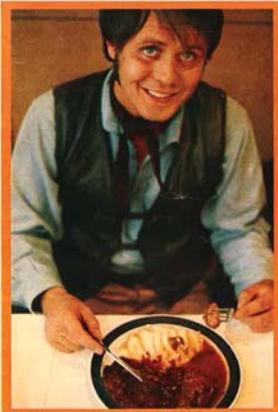
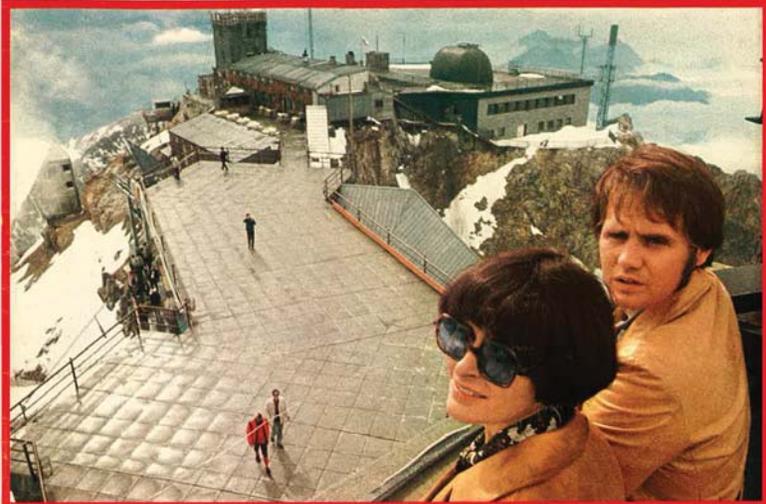
## Stuttgart's red cabbage is the best

Eight days of Germany - eight days of exciting experiences. Mark Slade was

surrounded by fans in Düsseldorf. In Stuttgart, he visited the radio exhibition. In München he was a guest of the BRAVO editorial team. And then Mark Slade fulfilled a childhood dream: a visit to the Alps. BRAVO captured the most beautiful stages of his journey through Germany.



"The best thing for me was the encounter with my German fans at the Teenage Fair in Düsseldorf. I had never thought it possible to have so many friends in Germany. For two hours I signed autographs--until my fingers were sore. I enjoyed the action anyway!"

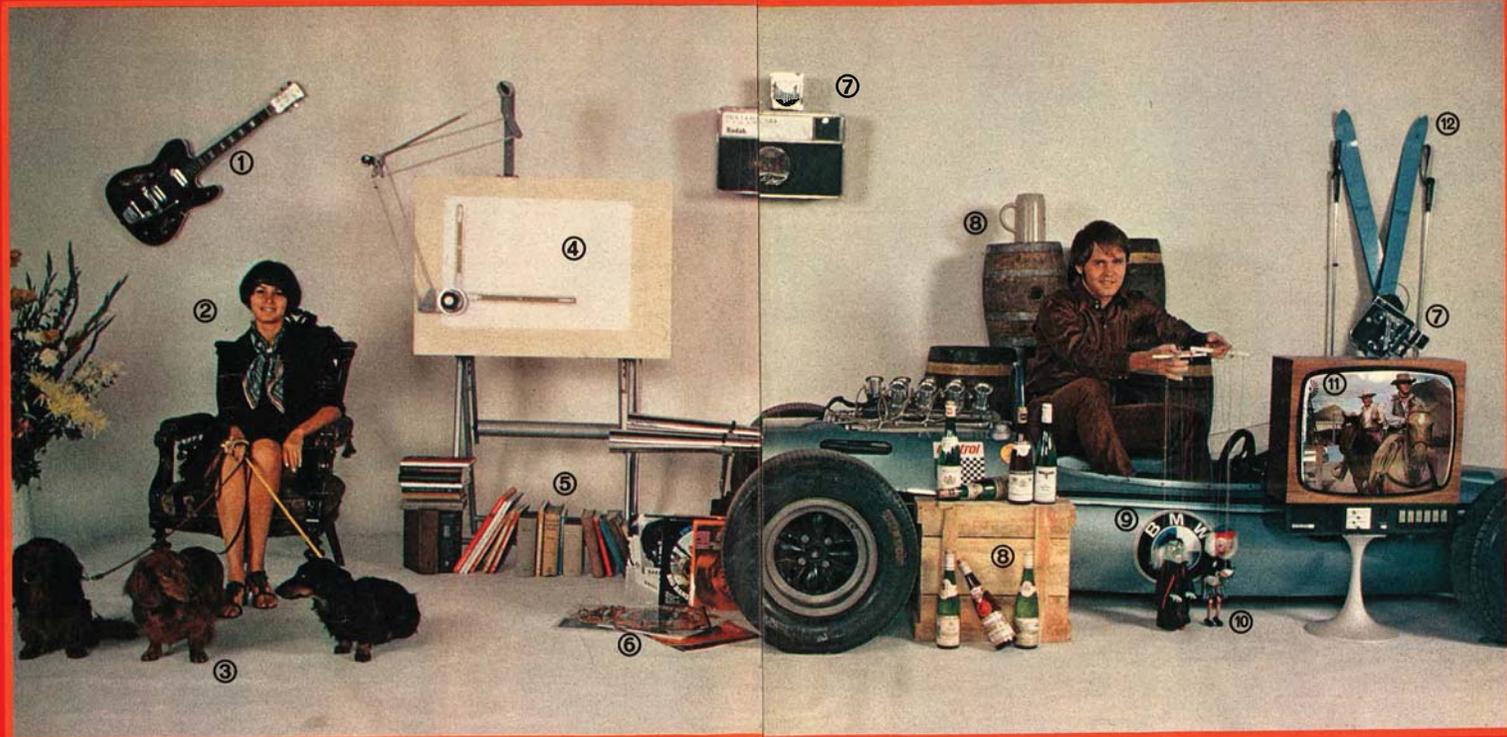


"They told me the best food is in Germany. In Stuttgart I tasted the red cabbage roll. Great!"



"The best thing about my trip was that my wife, Melinda, accompanied me. Unrecognized and undisturbed, we savored wine in a restaurant in München."

▲ "The summit of the Zugspitze is the highest in Germany. For half an hour I stood with my wife Melinda on the lookout platform. A magnificent view!"



## Mark Slade: "This is my World"

Exklusiv für BRAVO

Whoever thought the world of the "Billy Blue" consists only of horses, Colts and Indians, is completely mistaken. Mark Slade's world is much more colorful



(1) I have been playing guitar for almost three years. Not very well—I taught myself. Music belongs to the things I love. (2) My wife Melinda is the center of my world! Once we had a small disagreement. I brought flowers to her—and everything was all right. (3) Dogs are my favorite animals. When we move into our first house in Hollywood, I would like to buy a hunting dog. But we still live in an apartment. (4) The drawing board if I had not become an actor, there

would have been only one profession for me: cartoonist. That's how I earned my pocket money as a boy. (5) Books are among my hobbies. My favorite is history. But when do I get to read? (6) I have a lot of records, including one from Mark Slade - after I recently released my own first record! (7) Photography and 8mm film are my secret passions. I drag my cameras around everywhere with me. (8) German beer

and German wine—I get excited for that! (9) A fast racing car like the BMW Formula II would be my dream. When I was young, I participated in soapbox racing and I could see myself as a racing driver in my imagination. Now I have ordered a "Marcos 1800". I cannot wait for it to be delivered! (10) Marionettes have a special significance for me. Yes, I am a cowboy who plays with puppets. When I was in school, I earned

money entertaining as a ventriloquist who talked with Marionettes. (11) I probably don't need to explain what television and especially the "High Chaparral" mean to me. We have already been shooting on this series for three years, and it is still as much fun as on the first day of shooting. "Big John" Leif Erickson is also like a father to me! (12) Skiing is my favorite sport. I grew up in the mountains of Massachusetts and was already on skis for the first time at the age of four.



Billy Blue reveals his trick:

## "My second voice comes from the belly"



Apartment 301/302 in the Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten in München: I have a bottle of wine with Mark Slade and his wife Melinda. They show me photos of their 5-month old son, Morgan. The little boy is their pride and joy. Suddenly Melinda sneezed. "Gesundheit!" I hear a powerful man's stern voice from my right speaking in German. I look at Mark. "Gesundheit!" Once again, the sound came from him. I'm confused because Mark did not open his mouth at all. "You do not have to worry about ghosts," he reassures me. "You know, I am an amateur ventriloquist. With it, I earned pocket money as a boy. 'Gesundheit' is one of the few German words I know." So that was the "second voice" of Billy Blue! A little later we hear his "third voice." You see, we are watching the High Chaparral on German television. And now Mark is surprised. "My

German voice is really great. I really like it. It is always a bit curious when you hear and see yourself with a strange voice. The most funny is the Japanese version of High Chaparral. In Japan, the young actors get synced with a deep voice and the older actors, a high pitched one. While I'm there growling like an old bear, 'Big John' Leif Erickson sings like a bird!" Mark and Melinda are hungry, so we go to the restaurant El Greco in München -Schwabing. Billy Blue is instantly recognized. "He was just on television," someone whispers behind us. After the meal, the manager brings the guestbook. "May we ask you to write a few words, Mr. Slade?" he asks. Mark does not think long about what he will write. He takes the guestbook and ballpoint pen and begins to draw caricatures of himself, his wife Melinda, BRAVO

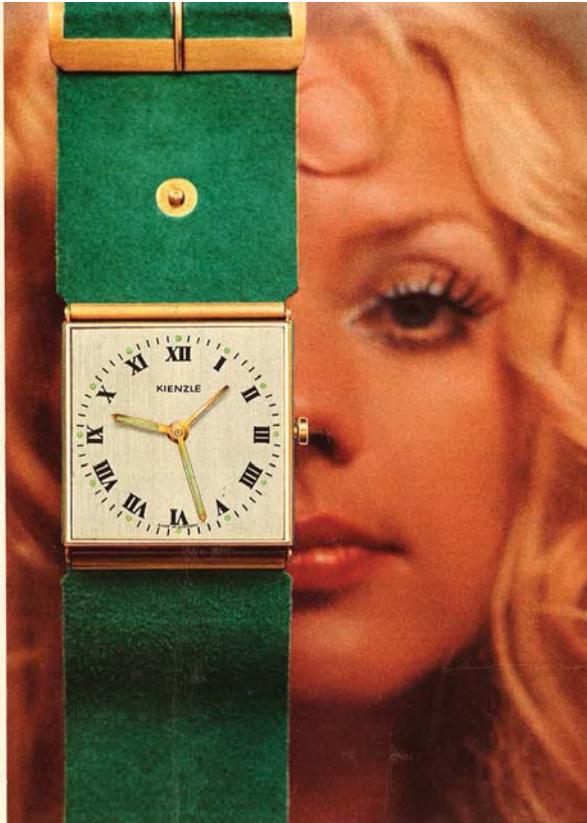
photographer Wolfgang Heilemann, and me. Mark is as good as a professional caricaturist. "Where did you learn to draw, Mark?" I want to know. "Oh, nowhere," says Billy Blue. "I started drawing at the age of six, and later, while I was in school, I earned a few dollars with my caricatures! A comic strip of mine ran monthly in a newspaper in Massachusetts." The next morning, Mark and Melinda would like to see something from Oberbayern. "Not just what American Tourists always see, but real country and people!" So we go south on a country road. When Mark sees a particularly charming farm, he asks us pleadingly "Can we look around here?" We ask the farmer and he is very delighted and proud of the prominent visitor from

Hollywood. We visit the cowsheds, the barns, the fields. Mark knows his way around. "You must be pleased with such good hay and a good harvest. And you have very good milk cows!" He knowingly praises the farmer. "How do you know so well, Mark?" I ask. "As a boy, I worked on a farm during the holidays, milked, fed chickens and helped with the harvest." "Is there anything you did not do as a boy, Mark?" I ask. "The ventriloquist, caricaturist and farm worker. . . ." "Yes," grins Billy Blue. "Cowboy - I have only been one on television!" We stop in a small village in between Bad Tölz and Weilheim. Mark and his wife try Bavarian specialties: white sausages, liver cheese, radishes, coleslaw, and wheat beer. "I could eat from morning to night here in Germany,"

◀ We fall in love again every day! Mark Slade and his wife Melinda

says Mark, grinning. "By the time I return, I will certainly have gained ten pounds. Big John and Uncle Buck will make faces at a fat Billy Blue!" We continue to Lake Eibsee, and from there by the cable car to the Zugspitze. "I'm going crazy," Mark was amazed. "There is snow up here! I didn't bring my skis!" And even up here, on Germany's highest mountain, Billy Blue is immediately recognized. "Yes, yes!" cries the man from the Bavarian Zugspitzbahn, who opens the cable car. "Billy Blue comes to us at the Zugspitzbahn!" Mark is immediately surrounded by autograph hunters. The temperature at the summit is five degrees above zero. "And tomorrow we will be back in Tucson, Arizona, where the 100-degree heat prevails," Mark says. "Actually, I would rather stay here, but it can't be. Well, I'll be back! I would like to make a film in Germany. I hope that it works." Hopefully, Mark - we would be delighted!

Michael Bokler



# Bravo.

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