THIRD YEAR OF LAWRENCE-EUTIN HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE

As a result of the sister city link established in 1989 between Lawrence and Eutin, the third group of students from Lawrence High School spent six weeks getting to know the school system, family life, and seeing the sights of Germany. The group consisted of Jim Bartscher, Rebecca Coggins, Heather MacFarlane, Stephanie McCabe, Francis Orzulak, and Eleanor Zedzies.

Three students attended the Weber Gymnasium and three attended the Voss Gymnasium. At first they visited the classes of their host partners, at whose homes they were staying. Later they attended regular classes of their choice. Daily orientation classes took place under the direction of two teachers, Walter Feyerabend (who accompanied the six Eutin students last year), and Helga Jansen (this year’s exchange teacher). The Eutin teachers organized trips to the theater in Eutin and Hamburg. The students also participated in activities with the fifteen KU students who were under the direction of Professor Frank Baron. The common activities included a reception at City Hall hosted by Mayor Gernot Grimm and City Council President Gudrun Kruse.

The Eutin Tourist Office invited the high school group and the KU students to take a boat trip on a lake near the Eutin castle grounds and arranged for free tickets to the Eutin Summer Opera festival. Kathleen McCalla, who hail from Kansas and was singing the lead role in Verdi’s I’Ll Trovatore, greeted the group. The KU students organized a picnic for all host families, including participants of the high school exchanges. The combined contingent also went to Kiel to see the annual sailing races, and to Schwerin, an important city of the former German Democratic Republic. A highlight of these common activities was the picnic that the Eutin Fire Department organized for the students. The students had a chance to climb the extension ladder of one of its vehicles and to test the fire hoses.

In addition to group activities, the host families undertook numerous individual trips. They also tried to ensure that their guests spoke German as often as possible.

A number of other visitors from Lawrence enjoyed the mild and unusually sunny summer in Eutin: State Representative Sandy Praeger; her husband Dr. Mark Praeger; and son J.D.; Marilyn Clark, representing the University of Kansas Libraries; and John Peck (KU Law School); his wife, Pamela Peck, a teacher at South Junior High School; Helmut Haulsergen (KU German Department); his wife, Ursula Haulsergen, a genealogist; Bill Keel (KU German Department); Maya Baron (who lived with the Jitschke family and worked at Hanspark) and Betty Baron, English instructor at Penn Valley Community College. Eutin newspapers, which always report generously about visitors from Lawrence, did not fail to take note that the families Praeger and Peck, neighbors in Lawrence, had made independent plans to visit Eutin and, to their great surprise, met by chance on the square in front of the Eutin city hall.

Representative Praeger met with Mayor Grimm to review the exchanges between the two cities. Later she also met with Gerhard Voss, the director of the Eutin Savings Bank (Kreissparkasse) to discuss trainee exchange possibilities between banks in the sister cities. Voss is enthusiastic about the prospect of sending his employees to Lawrence to work for a short period. The broad outlines of an exchange between his bank and the Douglas County Bank have been worked out. The first exchange is expected to begin in the fall of 1993.

EUTIN STUDENTS COME TO LAWRENCE

The Eutin students arrived on September 3 with teacher Helga Jansen. Unfortunately, health reasons forced Ms. Jansen to return to Eutin after only about two weeks. She wrote, “I am very sorry that I was not able to make use of the planned six weeks, especially as I had been looking forward to this stay very much. I was eager to observe an American high school, and I wanted to experience the presidential elections first-hand. Pre-
viously, I had only been as far as Kansas City, and I wanted to go a little further west this time.” Ms. Jansen hopes to come back to Lawrence for a longer stay.

Shortly after their arrival, the Eutin guests went to City Hall, where Dr. Brad Tate, principal of Lawrence High School, introduced them to the Lawrence City Commission. After a welcoming ceremony and reception by the Friends of Eutin at the Watkins Historical Museum gave Lawrence citizens a chance to meet the Eutin students and Ms. Jansen. Dr. Charles Loveland, president of Friends of Eutin, and Sandy Praeger greeted the guests.

The Eutin students appeared to have little difficulty in adapting to life in Lawrence. For example, at the Taste of Cultures, Falk Lass spoke to over a hundred guests, about his native city. The ability of the German students to communicate in English was impressive. The Badger, Lawrence High School's student newspaper, devoted a full-page article with pictures to the exchange. The pictures showed the German students playing basketball and pool with their American partners. Of course, the students from Eutin participated in many class and extracurricular activities. On two occasions they were guests of the KU German Club. KU students appreciated the chance to question the Eutin students about their views on the political and social problems facing Germany today. Although there was no consensus about the way to deal with the problem of xenophobia in Germany, the students agreed that the problem was serious and had to be solved in a way that protected the rights of those who came to Germany. The Eutin students were articulate and well-informed in responding to questions.

On the basis of letters from the participants, it is clear that the program was successful.

Susanne Jaross

Through the exchange I have had many positive experiences, and so I recommend continuing the program. It was very special that I was able to build a close relationship with my host sister, Heather MacFarlane, during the twelve weeks that we were together in Eutin and Lawrence. Moreover, my host family accepted me from the beginning, so that I felt that I was a member of the family who was treated just like every other member.

Although I had heard of the great size of Lawrence High School before I came, it appeared to me when I arrived like a labyrinth. But that changed quickly, and I could soon get around easily. Gradually I was able to get oriented and forgot the problems I had at the beginning.

Instruction is much different than in Germany. Above all, the stillness that reigned in the classroom during instruction was difficult to get used to. Since

German students are accustomed to talking to their neighbors during class, we really had to make an effort not to do that. This was especially hard for me since I was in class with another exchange student. I had to get used to a new rhythm of longer class periods and shorter intermissions, but getting used to this did not take long.

I enjoyed the many football games and the enthusiasm that they generated, something that was totally new in my experience. Our school teams do not stand in such high regard, and I think it’s great that the students are so involved here.

The City of Lawrence is attractive, and I found the campus of the university impressive. I like the long shopping street in the center of the city, where I walked often with my host sister, sometimes meeting others there.

Naturally I got to know Heather’s friends, who were quite friendly. But I made other contacts as well; students who were in my classes who were also interested in talking to me. I met friendly people who were eager to help me when they found out that I was not an American. My stay here was made up of many pleasant experiences, and I hope that others in future exchanges can experience what I have. My newly won friends represented the greatest enrichment.

Heather MacFarlane

When I first met Susanne Jaross, I did not realize that I was looking at a life-time friend. A friendship blossomed between us quickly. My days in Eutin seemed to go by so fast. Our favorite pastime was to stay up late on the weekends and just talk. We even had a word game: Susanne would pick difficult German words for me to say, and I would give her difficult English words.

It was hard to come back to Lawrence without Susanne. When she came here, I was so happy. I wanted her to get along with my family and friends. There was so much I wanted to show her. She liked going to the high school football games on Friday nights. My mother bought her a Lawrence High School sweatshirt. She liked showing team spirit at the games.
Other favorite activities were going to get ice cream and renting videos. The first time Susanne saw how big the ice cream scoops were, I thought her eyes would pop out.

She developed a close bond with my parents. She gave my stepfather a German word to learn each night. She went shopping with my mother. I was glad that Susanne spent time with my parents and got to know them so well.

Susanne told me that one of the best things she liked about staying here was her freedom. She did all of her laundry and made breakfast. She really enjoyed doing these things by herself. My family had a hayrack ride for all the host families. Afterwards we returned to my house and roasted hot dogs. I know Susanne felt happy that we contributed to the fun of the exchange program.

Before Susanne left for Germany, my mother and I took her to St. Louis. I was happy that we had a chance to show her another part of the United States. I miss Susanne a lot, and it is hard for me to think about her without crying. I hope to see her in the future. She will always be a part of me. It's friendships like this that make the world go around.

Falk Lass

Since all of us, German and American students alike, had a great time together in Eutin, I was really looking forward to my trip to Lawrence. When we finally arrived, our reception was very friendly, just as we had expected. My family made it clear on the first day that they wanted me to be part of the family.

When we went to school, at first the experience was less pleasant. The school was much bigger than what we were used to, and totally different. For instance, here everyone has the same six hours every day in the same order. In Germany, every day is different, and classes are shorter than they are here. Since we were only guests, the content of the classes sometimes bored us, and since we were not getting grades, teachers did not really care about our efforts. It was interesting to get to know a different school system, but two or three weeks of school would have been enough for that. If a part of the stay had been during the holidays, we would have been able to see more.

The country and the people have given me many new and valuable impressions, too. Although Lawrence is dependent on the university, it has the image of a typical American town with its spacious blocks and wide streets. Most streets are as straight as arrows and they are laid out in the shape of a chess board. I liked the
landscape of Kansas because it reminded me very much of Schleswig-Holstein. All the people I met were very friendly. We were fortunate that our exchange partners introduced us to their many friends. Actually, I never felt like a foreigner. I think that I gained a real friend in my partner, and I hope that the contacts between our families will be permanent. Because of the many unforgettable experiences and impressions, the exchange program has been valuable.

Jim Bartcher

My six weeks in Germany were exciting and broadening. The best part of the six-week exchange, and the one that will stay with me the longest, was the connection with people of a different culture. Everyone in Eutin, starting with the host family, treated us with kindness, and all made a genuine effort to help us enjoy our stay in Germany. I believe that in Falk, my host brother, I found a lifetime friend, and I would enthusiastically recommend the exchange for anyone willing to experience another culture.

Jim's Family: Bev, Bill, and Mark

What joy and growth we have experienced as a family and as individuals by participating in the Eutin exchange program! Jim looks at the world differently after visiting six weeks in Germany and participating as a fellow student in that culture. (It reminded Bev of her two visits to Germany.)

Before the German students came to Lawrence, the host families met twice to brainstorm about things to do and places to go when the students were here. It was fun to anticipate together, and it helped answer our questions and allay some of our anxieties.

When the students came, our family looked at Kansas and our part of the world with new eyes as we shared it with Falk. In the process of sharing we learned new things about one another (Mark unselfishly gave up his bedroom so Falk could have a private bathroom). We saw new places that we might not have visited (such as the State Fair and Cosmosphere in Hutchinson and the Botanical Gardens in St. Louis). We widened our circle of friends—German students and Lawrence host families alike.

The relationship with our Eutin friends continues to grow as we converse with host parents or students and correspond with Falk and his family. We look forward to seeing all of them in person someday!

* * *

We are now embarking on the fourth year of high-school exchange with Eutin. To ensure that deserving students and teachers can participate in the program, we have initiated a scholarship program, thanks to the Sister Cities Advisory Board, the City Commission, and the generous contributions of Friends of Eutin. In combination with this scholarship program we hope to get a strong commitment from those involved to communicate what they have learned through their stay in the sister city. The scholarships will imply a commitment to do some research in Lawrence about community service and to prepare a brief report about comparable work being done in Eutin. We hope to publish excerpts from these reports in our future newsletters.

EUTINERS LOOKING FOR LAWRENCE HOSTS

My name is Lilian Dilling, and I am eighteen years old. I live in Ahrenshöf, a small town near Eutin. I go to school in Eutin at the Wilhelm Wisser Schule, where I am in the tenth grade. I am planning to study languages at the university, especially English and French. That is why I am so interested in getting a nice family that might take me in, talking with me "day and night" and showing me the American way of life. I have been taking English lessons since 1984 (French since 1986), and I like horseback riding very much. I am fond of playing basketball, tennis, reading, painting, and skiing.

I would be grateful if you could have me for about six or seven weeks in the summer of 1993 (my vacation is from July 2 to August 14). Maybe you have a daughter or son who is interested in visiting Germany, making an exchange possible. But I could also pay for my stay. But the most important thing is that you would like to have a German girl take part in your life and, of course, that you are open-hearted and friendly. I would be delighted to hear from you soon.

EUTIN
ONE MORE REQUEST FOR A LAWRENCE HOST FAMILY

For many years the most popular Eutin restaurant for KU students has been the Hanau Stuben on the City Square, next to City Hall. All agree that Siegfried Thee serves the best food in town. We have a special room reserved for lunch, and the service is friendly and efficient. This summer Mrs. Thee asked us if we could find a host family for the academic year 1993-1994. Her son Carsten will be sixteen years old and is eager to improve his English. The family is willing to participate in an exchange or simply pay a certain monthly amount to cover living costs in Lawrence.

THE SUNDIAL AND THE EUTIN ROSE

One of the first projects of friends of Eutin was the effort to help in the renewal of Veterans Park. The project had strong support from City Manager Buford Watson before his sudden death in 1989. Further groups became involved, including the University Neighborhood Association and Lawrence High School. Jim Patti and Bob Rose, standing with Albert Cook, president of the University Place Neighborhood Association, were responsible for the sundial that stands at the entrance of the park. Of course, the bright red Eutin roses near the sundial help to make this park especially colorful and attractive for most of the year.

VISITS BETWEEN EUTIN AND LAWRENCE PROLIFERATE

Last May, Sandy and Mark Prager traveled to Copenhagen to see their son J.D., who had spent a year studying architecture while living with a Danish family. Since Eutin was only a few hours away, the Pragers decided to stay a few days in Eutin. Sandy Prager feels that the Scheewes as hosts made their stay much more enjoyable and informative:

We learned about the people and actually experienced life on a small German city. Helmut and Hella selected their favorite sights and shared them with us. We wouldn’t have known about Molfsee, an open-air museum that traces the development of the German farm house over four to five centuries, with over sixty actual houses relocated and restored. We learned about the local education system. Since Mark is a surgeon, he appreciated a tour of the medical center in Kiel, arranged by the two Scheewe children, both of whom are physicians. Mark gained some valuable insights into the German medical system.

Without a doubt the biggest benefit of visiting our sister city was staying with a host family. We will maintain contact with the Scheewes and hope that we can return their hospitality. The sister city connection enhanced our travel experience and provided us with opportunities to see and do things that just wouldn’t have been possible if we had been traveling on our own.

Numerous exchanges occurred in the fall. Joachim Neumeister, president of the Eutin Preservation Society, together with artist Heinrich Popp, another member of the organization, visited in Lawrence for a week in October and stayed with the Huelsbergen. Mr. Neumeister, editor of his organization’s newsletter, sent us the most recent issue, which features a detailed report about his visit in Lawrence and about preservation activities in our city. It is possible that some citizens in Eutin are now better informed about the efforts to preserve historical sights in East Lawrence than are we here.

In November Rosemarie and Klaus Fleischer were guests of Marilyn and Bunker Clark. Rosemarie Fleischer, acting chair of the Friends of the Eutin Landesbibliothek, has been working closely with Marilyn Clark to make Eutin’s valuable book collection accessible to the public. Earlier this year Marilyn Clark was in Eutin to assist in these efforts. This cooperative
project began in 1990 with an exchange of information about library holdings. The Eutin library is about to move its books to a new location and is preparing to open its collection for public use. The library staff and resources are relatively small. Ms. Fleischer described the strength of the collection, which, because of financial problems, has been inaccessible to the public. She told the Journal World, "The Eutin library is a hidden treasure not many people know about. We rely entirely on funds from the government right now, but that money can only cover the basics. We’re learning all we can about fund raising so we can start helping ourselves." Klaus Fleischer, who with his wife heads an art gallery, shares an interest in the project. He is also a member of the Eutin Preservation Society, and the effort to make the library accessible is clearly in line with the philosophy of preservation. In his interview with the University Daily Kansan Mr. Fleischer also recognized the need to learn from KU’s. He said, Germans were unfamiliar with the concept of raising money. "It’s so strange in our thinking. We just don’t do that. If someone knows how to help us, that’s great."

The discussions have produced applications to private firms to support the library project.

The Fleischers met with William Crowe, dean of KU libraries, to discuss the cooperation between the Eutin and Lawrence libraries. They also discussed the possibility of a visit from Dr. Wolfgang Grieb, one of the researchers of the Eutin Library, to lecture on the library and provide information to scholars and students about research opportunities in Eutin.

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George Woodyard, dean of International Studies and Programs and presently chair of the Sister Cities Advisory Board, visited Eutin with his wife, Eleanor, in November and stayed with Hella and Helmut Scheewe.

Helmut Scheewe, coordinator of sister-city projects in Eutin, organized a special dinner meeting with Manfred Meyer, city commissioner and principal of a school; Dr. Karl-Heinz Müller, managing director of Globus Gummiwerke; Gerhart Voss, director of the Kreisparkasse Ostholstein; Dr. K.-H. Jäschke, director of the Voss Gymnasium; and Dr. H. Rathsjen, director of the Weber Gymnasium.

Dean Woodyard reported:

The discussions were productive and included not only an update, for the benefit of all present, about the current state of exchanges and activities, but also a notion of projections into the future. The proposal to send one individual each from the bank and Dr. Müller’s firm seems to be gaining strength. There was a brief discussion of possible exchanges involving the choirs and the fire brigades at some point in the distant future. Helmut Scheewe pointed out that the fifth anniversary of the signing of the sister cities agreement will be rolling around in 1994. He would clearly like to celebrate in some signal way at that time. We also discussed the school exchanges. We talked about the proposal asking the students to identify an area of interest in which they would do some local research before traveling to the other site. The group found this to be an attractive idea and one that we should pursue. The various exchanges projected for 1993 appear to be well under way, including preparations for visits by artists Louis Copt and Jim Brothers.

Helmut and Hella Scheewe were wonderful and gracious hosts. Even though the visit in Eutin was brief, it was useful for me to have the first hand knowledge of our sister city and to meet with key individuals.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to Pizza Hut for helping us at the reception for the Eutin visitors. We appreciate the willingness of the Budget and photographer Erin Shoulberg to allow us to use photos of the exchange students.
Friends of Eutin
Membership Application

Name _______________________________________

Address _______________________________________

____________________________________________

Phone _______________________________________

1993 membership dues to cover cost of newsletters and operational expenses: $10. Make checks out to Friends of Eutin. Life-time membership is $50.00.

New Member __________ Renewal ____________ Life-time membership ____________

Check enclosed ________________________________

Contribution to scholarship fund for high school exchange scholarships. Write the tax-exempt contribution to the Lawrence Public Schools Endowment Association:

Check enclosed ________________________________

I would like to help by:

_______ putting up one _______ or two _______ guests from Eutin.

_______ entertaining guests (for examples, showing sights)

_______ raising funds

_______ other ways, such as ________________________________

Names and addresses of prospective members

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

Please address all checks to: Friends of Eutin
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045

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