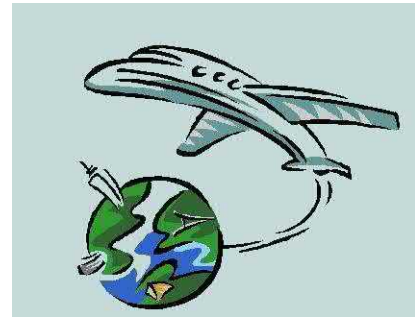


Exchange program:

Jackson High School in Michigan

And

Lothar-Meyer-Gymnasium in Germany



The fly to America

On the 10th Decembre we all met in Varel at the Lothar-Meyer-Gymnasium at about 6.45 in the morning.

When I arrived the bus was already there but I stayed outside with my parents and the others. As our teachers said that all students had to get on the bus I didn't really want to go because I didn't know what my "American family" would be like. We had exchanged e-mails but I think it's not the same as when you speak with someone you don't know and I didn't know if I would like America.

After we had said goodbye to our familys we went to the airport in Bremen where we had to wait a long time.

The security check took a lot of time, but then we could go on the plane to Amsterdam.

After maybe one hour we landed in Amsterdam where we could finally go on the aircraft and started our 8-hour-flight to Detroit.

As we arrived in Detroit we were picked up by a yellow school bus and were taken to Jackson High School where our American familys were waiting.

Then everyone went with his host family to his new home for the next three weeks.



The first days



The next morning we had to go to school with our exchange students, but first we met with our teachers and the other Germans. We had to take photos for our school IDs, that was new because in Germany we don't have school IDs and in the U.S. you must have them with you all the time. Thus I made sure every morning that I had my ID because I was very frightened to forget it. After this a few students came and showed us the very big school. After this first tour of the school our exchange students came to pick us up and then we went with them to their lessons. It's not the same school system as in Germany where you have different subjects every day. There you have the same subjects in the same periods every day. In the evening we went

for a "Welcome Dinner" to a different host family where we met with other host families and their German students.

On Friday we had breakfast with the principals. First we thought that they wouldn't come but then a few of them came. After that breakfast we walked to the YMCA, which is a sport centre. While we walked there Mr. Ross showed us a bit of the city.

The first weekend



The first weekend we went to a snowmobile race because my host family liked snowmobiles (they have one of their own). That weekend we had time to talk and so we learned more about each other.

The first week

On Monday we were at the "Toledo Zoo". but there are not really different animals as in Germany.

The next day they showed us a few of the churches and buildings of Jackson.

We met the mayor and he told us a bit about Jackson.

After that we went to "JTV 17", that's Jackson's TV station where they showed us the studio.

We visited the building of "Consumers Energy" and the library of Jackson, too.



On Wednesday we had a school day with our exchange students, but they had to take a lot of tests so it wasn't really interesting for us.

On Thursday we had a school day until the first lunch but then we met and walked to the



"Parlour", a place where you can eat ice-cream. That ice-cream is very delicious and you can order 21 scoops of ice-cream, and if you can eat all of them in one hour you don't have to pay. In the evening sirens started suddenly, it was a tornado alarm. That was really exciting for me because we didn't have this in Germany and it was very loud so I didn't know what to do. But my host family said that everything was alright because the tornado was two hours away from our house.

Then we had another normal school day. But these days are not the same school days as in Germany...In Jackson the students come later to their lessons or go earlier. In one lesson a

girl pierced another girl's ear and that was really funny because the teacher didn't say anything. Later I went with my host family to the "Haunted House", that's the Michigan Theatre. But when it's Halloween and you go inside, it's dark and there are some people in costumes who scare you. That was exciting, too. First we were all scared, but later, when we were outside we laughed about all that.

The second weekend

That weekend I went with my family to "Frankenmuth", that's a "German city", I think it's not really like Germany but it was funny to see (and to read) German things in the U.S.



The second week

Monday was a normal school day.



The next day we met at school and went by bus to the "MIS" (Michigan International Speedway) where every year are many car races. From there we were taken to "Dawn Foods" – a company specializing in cake and doughnut mixes.

In the evening the German department held their annual "Oktoberfest" where we ate something and where we had to sing a song for the others.

Then half of our group was taken to "Northwest High School" and the other half to "Lumen Christi". I went to "Northwest High School" where each of us was teamed up with a student who showed you the school there.

On Thursday we went to the Planetarium and after that we walked to the "Sharp Park School", that's a school like the 'Grundschule' in Germany. But as we met in the morning at "Jackson High School", the fire alarm suddenly went off. Later we heard that someone had done this... But everybody had to go outside to the football field, and there you saw how many people there are at this school. Okay, when you see this big school building you know automatically that many people attend this school.

October 26th was again a normal school day, but I think not really “normal” for us because it was the last school day. I was a bit sad because I had met so many nice people there. Later, at about 11.30 p.m., we went to “Rock ‘n Bowl”...that means that you go bowling and while you bowl you can listen to Rock music. It was very funny!!



Last weekend

On Saturday we were invited to a surprise birthday party. After this birthday party we were invited to a horror film party, too. These two parties were very funny.

Sunday we went to a birthday party which was held by my host family for many people. Afterwards we went to Mrs. Clemon’s home because there was the “Good-bye party” for all of the exchange students and their families.

Last week

On October 29th we left at 7.00 a.m. and started our trip to Chicago.

We went to the “Sears Tower” which has over 100 floors...and we went up by elevator. It was fantastic! You could see so much of Chicago; everything was so small and you could see so many big buildings...it was so wonderful. Then we went by bus to “Navy Pier” where we could eat and buy something, for example souvenirs and other things. After meeting the others at the bus, we went to the “Field Museum of Natural History” where we were shown a small section of the museum. It was very big and we didn’t see all the things but we saw a bit and that was okay. When we were back we were allowed to go shopping. Later we met and went back to Jackson. At maybe 10.30 p.m. we were back..



On Tuesday we met at school and were taken to “Briarwood Mall” where we could go shopping, too. I think most of us spent their money there, maybe on clothes and other things.



In the evening my exchange student had a concert at school and after this we went to the “Parlour” and wanted to eat the 21 scoops of ice-cream. However, we didn’t get the portion for free because after a while we were so full that we couldn’t eat any more of this ice-cream.

The next day we went to school and spent the day in the “Auditorium” and where we saw three movies. I also had to pack my suitcase...I didn’t really want to go home. In the evening we went to a Halloween- party; we walked from house to house and got candy, but we had to say “Trick or treat!” This was really exciting because I think we don’t have Halloween in Germany like it is in the U.S.

The last day ☺

Now we had to go home but I think nobody wanted to...Before my “mum” and my “new sisters” went with me to school they showed me the station. As we had to say good-bye a few of the people I got to know came to say good-bye. I was so happy about that!! But as I saw all of them I was very sad, too...Some of us cried and as our teachers said that we had to get on the bus I didn’t want to go...

It was good that I signed up for this exchange program because I got to know new people who are new friends for me and I had a wonderful host family that is now my “American family”. They said that I can come back any time I want and I’m sure that I will do this because I would be very sad when I didn’t have any more contact with these wonderful people.

