

German exchange students and their host families share stories of their adventures in America during the past three weeks at a farewell party Tuesday in Chillicothe.

MATT DAYHOFF
JOURNAL STAR



A FAREWELL EXCHANGE



German exchange students mingle with their American counterparts at lakeside during a farewell party Tuesday night at the home of Bob and Jo Ann Randolph on North Ivy Lake Road in Chillicothe. The exchange students from Peoria's sister city of Friedrichshafen have been living with host families for the past three weeks.

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Visit ends with one eye sad, one eye happy

IRIS SELIGER knows it's coming, once she gets going Thursday.

Seliger will be on a bus, destined for O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

Peoria will be in the rear-view mirror.

"One eye sad and one eye (happy)," said Seliger, who is from **FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, GERMANY**, Peoria's sister city.

"Because I left two daughters at home."

While **ALEXANDRIA**, 23, and **ELLEN**, 19, remained in the south of Germany, near the borders of Austria and Switzerland, Iris, husband **JOACHIM** and their son, **MARTIN**, 12, escorted 20 teenagers to Peoria.

Their three-week stay extended what is said to be the longest continuous youth exchange between sister cities in the United States.

The annual Friedrichshafen-to-Peoria pilgrimage began in 1978.

"They come with a great attitude of just wanting to soak up everything there is to soak up," said **ERIC HOADLEY** of Morton, an officer with the Friends of Friedrichshafen organization.

"We're trying to discover things in this area that we haven't already done to give them the American experience — whatever that may be."

See the USA

In 16-year-old **LUCAS MOERGELIN'S** case, that was accompanying his host family, the **ROESLERS** of Peoria, to Glacier National Park in Montana.

"They said, 'We'd like to do this, but we're going off on our family vacation,'" Hoadley recalled. "I said, 'Well, take

him! This kid would have such a unique experience."

Said Moergelin: "We went to an iceberg lake and that was pretty awesome. Beautiful."

Go away, rain; go away, rain ...

The German youths took day trips to the Springfield area, where they toured **NEW SALEM** and visited the **ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**. The 10 girls also went shopping in **CHICAGO**.

"When they went to Springfield, it was pouring," Hoadley said. "When they went to Wildlife Prairie (State) Park, it was pouring. And then we had a beach party out by Lake Bloomington, it was pouring. It was kind of a joke.

"And then they went bowling. It was sunny."

If you go

When Peoria youths travel to Friedrichshafen, they're within striking distance of **FRANCE** and **ITALY** as well as **AUSTRIA** and **SWITZERLAND**.

"Everything is very near," said Iris Seliger, who estimated it's one hour to Austria and Switzerland, two hours to France and three hours to Italy.

Lest we forget

Peoria's other sister cities are **BENXI, CHINA**, and **CLONMEL, IRELAND**.

Sister city Q&A

Since coming to Peoria, what are a few of your favorite things?

"The supermarkets are much bigger than in Germany. And you have drive-throughs everywhere, including the bank. It's very exciting."

INA SOHM, 19
HOST FAMILY: THE NULLS OF DUNLAP



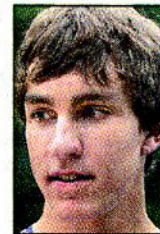
"I went with my family one week to Glacier National Park in Montana. And I went to a (Peoria Chiefs) baseball game. I don't know (if there's baseball in Germany). Not in southern Germany."

LUCAS MOERGELIN, 16
HOST FAMILY: THE ROESLERS OF PEORIA



"I loved Chicago. It was awesome. I also loved Taco Bell and Kartville."

JOHANNA SCHRAFF, 16
HOST FAMILY: THE ELLISES OF PEORIA



"My favorite thing was going out and shooting a shotgun. I've never shot such a big gun before, only small ones."

ADRIAN HOFFMANN, 16
HOST FAMILY: THE PASQUINIS OF MANTOWN HILLS



"Every student has a car and can drive. I didn't. I don't have a driver's license."

MICHAEL MARQUARDT, 17
HOST FAMILY: THE GREBS OF DUNLAP



"I like everything. It was three great weeks."

TERESA BUCK, 15
HOST FAMILY: THE HOADLEYS OF MORTON