

From city of 2 million

Farm life a change for exchange student

"It's fun," says Marcus Butzek about living on a farm. It's also quite a change for

the Rotary exchange student, who comes from Hamburg, a city of 2 million in West Germany.

Since he arrived Aug. 18, until recently, he lived with the Art Severance family on their dairy farm on Sev-

erance Road, Decker.

He moved in with the Ben Hobart family on their farm on Hobart Road, Gageton. He will probably live with one more family before he returns to Germany in late July.

On the Severance farm, he fed the calves. As for getting up at 5 a.m. to help with the milking, he said with a laugh, "I sleep." He got up at 7.

"In the beginning, it was not so easy, he said of the contrast between life in a major city and rural Cass City life, "but I like it here, too."

Butzek, 17, studied English for four years before he came here, but in school, that was his most difficult subject, and it took him a while after he was here before he could speak and understand it well.

The exchange student said he wanted to come here because, "The United States is very popular in the world. I heard a lot about this country. I wanted to see the country with my own eyes."

Now that he is here, he has found many minor surprises, but no major ones.

ONE SURPRISE WAS that "big cars in America were so cheap." For \$8,000 or \$9,000 in Germany, one gets a smaller car than here. Big cars in Germany are VERY expensive, but that is perhaps not surprising in a country where gasoline sells for about \$2.20 a gallon.

The only persons who can afford to guzzle gas at that price are rich enough to afford gas-guzzling cars.

Germany is encountering a problem that exists in this country. Japanese cars cost less in Germany than Ger-

man cars and are selling well.

Teenagers in Germany, incidentally, cannot drive until they are 18. Driver training before they get their licenses is mandatory, which is only available at private schools at a cost of \$600.

SPORTS WAS ANOTHER surprise to Butzek. At his school in Germany, he is a member of the soccer and volleyball teams, but games are played after school (against teams from other schools) and there are no spectators.

The situation is quite different for some sports in this country, mainly football and basketball. Sports is No. 1 in some students' lives here, he commented, but one doesn't find that in Germany.

The exchange student was a member of the cross country team here this past fall and plans to be on the track team in the spring.

HE HAS FOUND MANY

students here have a lack of knowledge about the rest of the world. One example is that he has been asked whether he is from East Germany or West Germany. East Germany is a Communist country and its citizens are not allowed to leave.

"German students know more about the world because we must study it," he noted, adding that perhaps the difference between his country and the U.S. in knowledge of geography is, "Germany is a lot smaller so we must know more about other countries."

At Cass City High School, Butzek has been studying algebra, art, government, current affairs, lifetime sports and typing this semester. He won't receive academic credit back home for his year here.

WHEN HE RETURNS, he will have 2½ years of studying to do at the gymnasium, which has nothing to do with sports.

The gymnasium is the highest level of high school, for those planning to go on to the university. Enrollment at universities is limited so very good grades are required and not everyone will qualify.

The middle school goes up to the equivalent of 10th grade and is for students planning to go into various trades, such as auto mechanics, secretarial, etc. Some go on to a trade school after graduation.

The lowest level of high school is for those with learning problems.

German schools are tough. Instead of six subjects Butzek is studying here, in the gymnasium, he has 14, although each class

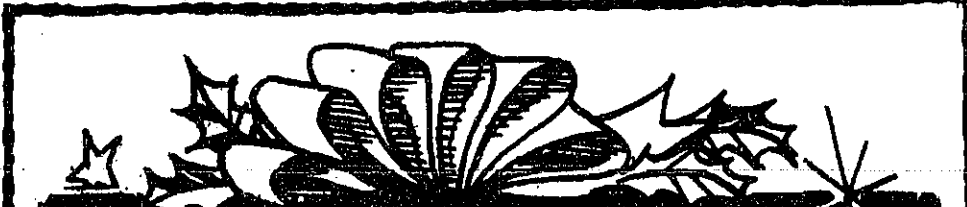
is attended only two or three times a week.

A lot is crammed into an hour, and after school, students go home and study.

AFTER GRADUATION from the gymnasium, Butzek will probably serve compulsory 18 months military service.

After that, assuming qualifications for the university and he is confident he will come a long eight years study and hospital work "because I want to be a doctor."

The exchange student father works for a photograph record company. His mother is a part-time secretary. His sister, 19, is in final year at the gymnasium.



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Victim's estate is defendant

A victim of an Oct. 6, 1978, traffic accident is suing the estate of the driver of the car in which she was riding. The driver was killed in the crash.

Plaintiff is Connie Withers of Vassar.

Defendants are George Gleason, representative of the estate of Amy Gleason, the driver, and Shane Lorey, driver of the other car involved, and Robert Olivio Sr., owner of the Lorey car. The latter two live in Sanilac county.

The suit asks for no more than \$35,000 in damages, plus interest, costs and at-

torney fees, claiming that Miss Withers, then 17, suffered "permanent, severe and disabling" injuries in the accident.

The accident took place on M-46, northeast of Vassar. It was reported at the time the Gleason auto had faulty power steering, the result of which it was weaving in both lanes. It became sideways in the eastbound lane just before being struck by the eastbound Lorey auto.

In addition to Miss Gleason, then 19, one of five passengers in her car was also killed.

The suit has been assigned to Circuit Judge Patrick R. Joslyn.



MARCUS BUTZEK

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High yield contest scheduled

Farmers in Tuscola and Huron counties using conservation tillage practices in crop production should register for a high yield contest sponsored by several local implement dealers through the Cooperative Extension Service.

Participating farmers and spouses can win one of four all-expense paid trips to Case, Ford, International Harvester, or John Deere manufacturing facilities next winter after the 1981 harvest. There is no charge for entering.

Entry forms and contest rules can be picked up at the extension office, Soil Conservation Service or Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices in Caro or Bad Axe or at participating implement dealers, including Rabideau Motors in Cass City.

Studies in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan show that entering such high yield contests can lead to higher yields, probably due to a higher intensity of overall management, according to Mike Score, Tuscola county extension agricultural agent.

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