

Swiss exchange student delights American hosts

Just about as sweet as the chocolate for which her country is famed, Swiss-born Brigitte Neff is capturing the hearts of Americans with her enthusiasm and engaging disposition.

Brigitte, 27 years old on Sept. 26, is an International Foreign Youth Exchange student who has been traveling in California and Oregon as a part of the 4-H IFYE exchange program.

With an insatiable appetite for new experiences, Brigitte seems to be having a wonderful time. "I love to travel," she said. "And I love to speak with the people." And speak she does, in almost fluent English, despite limited English lessons. Her native language is German and her second language taught in the schools, is French.

Brigitte, her three brothers and three sisters grew up on a dairy farm in the village of Buhler in northeast Switzerland. The family has a farm of about 18 acres, some of which her father owns and some of which he leases. They keep around 20 head of Swiss browns, 10 pigs, and 40 chickens. Because of government restrictions her father cannot sell his milk, but instead breeds cows and pigs. "Our farmland at home is a little like a toy," said Brigitte, compared with large American farms. She says that an American farm of 10,000 acres is almost as big as a state in Switzerland.

"My father 'learned' us to work," she added. "You know you have to work for your money. But after a heavy day we enjoy to play. We have no TV. We have action and don't have time to look. We are all the time busy." For ten weeks every year her father stays with their cows at the family's cabin, which has no electricity.

Obviously no stranger to work, Brigitte has worked with a family as a nurse's aide; was employed in a hospital as a Red Cross aide; cared for her grandmother who was ill; worked as a farmer in an area without electricity and milked cows by hand; attended a special farm-wife school in which she learned sewing, bookkeeping, weaving, pottery, small farm animal husbandry, gardening and cooking up to seven course meals; worked with apple farmers and spent six years as a family aide.

Brigitte says that the farm-wife school was very difficult and, at the end of the training, students were judged on the skills they had learned. Brigitte says that she aspires to be a midwife, for which she is required to complete three more years of training and pass a test.

Brigitte says that of her town of 2,000, only 800 are Swiss. The remaining 1,200 are foreigners who work in the textile industry making carpets, or make jewelry boxes or kitchen cupboards.

She says she became involved in Rural Youth, what we call 4-H, in her canton or state, where she was a leader. Only 14 out of 6,000 Swiss



Brigitte Neff demonstrates yodeling at Soroptimist meeting last Thursday.

were selected in the initial screening to come to the U.S. through IFYE. Out of the 14 only four were finally chosen this year, three girls and one boy. "I was so glad and happy I could come," she said.

Brigitte says that she has spent six days in the "Big Apple," four days in Philadelphia, then went to Washington D.C. where she met other IFYE students from Europe and South America. She then traveled to California, where she worked her way up the state, staying with seven different host families in seven different cities before coming to Buttercreek to stay with John and Nellie Madison. During Brigitte's stay in Oregon she has seen Cannon Beach and Seaside, Astoria, Tillamook, Fort Clatsop, Molino, Heppner and Pendleton, where she attended the Happy Canyon and Round-Up festivities. Brigitte, who is fascinated with native Americans and art, says that the Round-Up has been her most interesting experience. "The Pendleton Round-Up, the Indian arts and crafts and the crazy cowboys—that was just wonderful," she said.

Host families ranged from a nurse, a teacher and a computer specialist to a farmer, an apartment manager and a resort employee. The current hosts the Madisons, had a daughter who traveled to Switzerland as an IFYE.

Brigitte arrived in the U.S. on May 28 and in the Heppner area Sept. 7. The six-month exchange program is divided between two states with three months in California and three months in Oregon. After her stay at Buttercreek, Brigitte will go to Klamath Falls and then to Springfield, before traveling

to Washington, D.C., for a meeting with other IFYEs and then home.

Brigitte says, "Sometimes I miss my family, but I have so many nice families here." During her stay in a Buttercreek friend from Switzerland, Erica Pahler, has been visiting. Erica has been working as a nanny in Canada.

Brigitte says that she enjoys American food. "I try anything," she said, adding that her only bad experience was in the "Big Apple," where an encounter with a hamburger made her wary of the American staple.

The Swiss education system is a bit different than the American, with primary school students attending school from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday and Saturday students are dismissed at noon. Secondary school students attend from 7 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m. School children have only five weeks vacation in the summer. After the ninth grade, students may attend college or professional school. In professional school students work at their profession and attend professional or home education school one day a week. In her professional school Brigitte stayed with a family, learning to become a farm wife and spent one day a week in school.

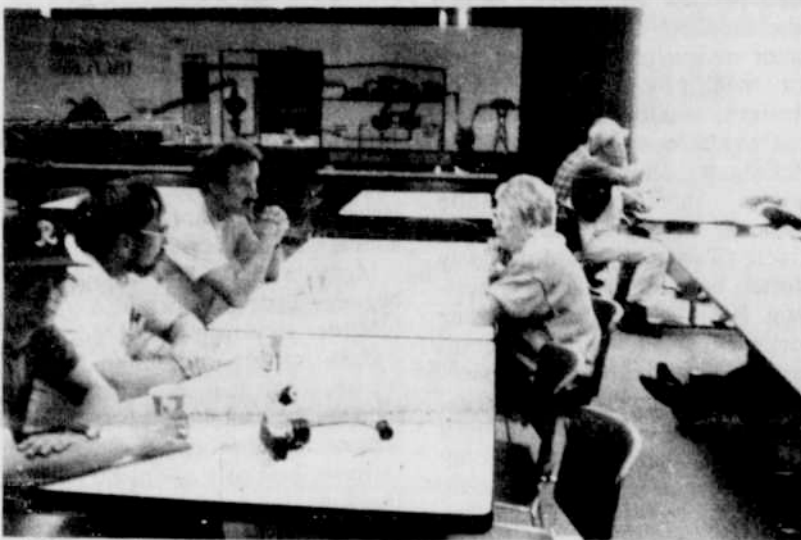
While here Brigitte represents her country and her canton, speaking with reporters and civic organizations about her life in Switzerland. In Heppner she spoke and showed slides at Soroptimist and at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce. Those attending were also treated to a beautiful and haunting yodeling demonstration.

The Heppner

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United Way kicks off annual campaign



L-R Harold and Ed Glenn, Dick Foidel and Vera Cooley discuss United Way program.

United Way of Morrow County kicked off its annual campaign drive last week at the Portland General Electric Coal Fired Plant near Boardman. The campaign runs until November and the board of directors is hoping to meet or exceed its \$18,000 goal for this year.

United Way of Morrow County is a non-profit organization whose funds are entirely raised and disbursed within Morrow County. "Ninety-six cents of every dollar contributed goes to the agencies and groups we support," said a spokesperson. "Only a very small amount is used for campaign and fund-raising purposes."

By supporting the local United Way, businesses and individuals

have aided the Heppner Senior Citizens, Inc., the Boardman Child Development, Irrigon Early Learning and Heppner Day Care centers, local Christmas Basket programs, the Columbia River EMT, Irrigon Ambulance Service and EMT Morrow County Ambulance funds, the Lone Fire Department, Domestic Violence Services, the Morrow Co. Neighborhood Council, the Irrigon-Boardman Emergency Assistance Center, Stokes Landing Senior Center, Oregon Trail Campfire and Blue Mt. Council of Boy Scouts, as well as local troops and packs, Pioneer Memorial Hospital Home Health, Morrow Co. residents who belong to the Retired Senior

Volunteer Program and a unique program, the Morrow County Disaster Relief Fund. In the last two years over \$2,500 has been distributed to county residents who have had catastrophic financial obligations due to fire, medical expenses, etc. from this fund.

Of United Way's contributions to the EMT Morrow County Ambulance Fund, Carl Lauritsen, EMT III says, "United Way has helped us a lot. We're getting newer and better trauma equipment with the monies. It doesn't just benefit us—it makes our job easier, but it helps everyone in the community."

Local businesses contributing to Morrow County United Way include Morrow Co. Grain Growers, U.S. West, Boardman Laundromat, Van Marter & Kahl Insurance, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Morrow County employees, Bank of America Federal Savings Bank (formerly Benjamin Franklin Savings & Loan), Pioneer Memorial Hospital, First Interstate Bank and Portland General Electric. "Many individual citizens also contribute on a one-time or on an annual basis. Contributions are tax deductible, and can be designated to a specific fund," said the spokesperson. Contributions may be sent to P.O. Box 501, Boardman, OR 97818. Anyone wanting more information about Morrow County United Way is encouraged to contact a board member: Patti Allstott, 676-5216; Judy Eckman, 989-8498; Lisa Rietmann, 422-7181; Cathy Bauska 481-7047 and Dick Foidel 922-3130.

Memory of slain police man laid to rest

The memory of a slain police officer has finally been laid to rest almost three years after his death—thanks to the efforts of the Morrow County Sheriff Roy Drago.

Corpus Christi, Texas, Police Sergeant J.D. Bock, who was raised in Boardman, was shot to death on Sept. 9, 1987. Bock, 40 years old, had stopped a speeding car and in the confrontation which followed was shot and killed with his own gun.

Bock was buried in the Riverview Cemetery in Boardman, where he'd said he wished to be buried. Boardman police officers and sheriff's deputies held a memorial service at the grave site in May 1988, in an annual ceremony honoring officers killed in the line of duty, but no headstone had been placed on Bock's grave.

In May of the following year, when another memorial was held, the headstone had still not been placed. Drago then decided to take action, taking responsibility for the headstone since at one time Bock had applied for a job with the Morrow County Sheriff's Dept. But, at that time there was no opening in the department.

Drago then called the Corpus Christi Police Department whose officials believed that a headstone had already been put in place.

After more than 50 phone calls and a run around from the Corpus Christi police, the Oregon State Sheriff's Association agreed to buy the headstone, at Drago's request. But that spurred the Corpus Christi department "to take care of our own," and they finally sent the headstone which says, "A Corpus Christi Police Officer killed in the line of duty." The stone includes Bock's name, dates of his birth and death, and a replica of his sergeant's shield.

"One day I came to the cemetery," said Drago, "and there it was. There was a feeling of great relief."

IHS alumni plan reunion

Ione High School classes of 1950-65 will hold their fifth reunion on Saturday, October 13, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Thunderbird Inn at the Quay, Vancouver, Wash.

Registration is \$30 per person payable to Judy Rea. For more information call her at 422-7445.

Anyone interested in attending and reminiscing with IHS Alumni is welcome to attend.

The evening will begin with a 6 p.m. no-host bar, followed by a buffet at 7:30. Dancing to live music and reminiscing begins at 9 p.m.

Former Ione boy dies

A former Ione boy, Dalton Quinn Tullis, of Rainier, died Sept. 23 following a dirt bike accident at Rainier Beach.

Quinn is the son of Tim Tullis of Rainier and Linda Tullis of Ione. Grandparents are Garry and Birdine Tullis of Ione and Harold and June Hamblet of Sweet Idaho. He attended school at Ione before he moved to Rainier four years ago.

Reno night Oct. 13

"Mark your calendar. Reno night is coming," said organizer and Booster Club member Susan Johnston.

The annual Booster Club fund raiser is planned for Sat., Oct. 13, starting at 7 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Club.

The evening will feature an auction, 21 tables, roulette and other gaming tables.

G-T prices increase

Beginning next week the Heppner Gazette-Times will cost 35 cents at the newsstand. Subscriptions will also raise to \$15 in Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler Counties and \$9 senior citizens.

The price increase is necessary because of increased production costs at the newspaper, says Publisher David Sykes.

Tourism committee plans picnic Oct. 2

The Tourism Committee is holding a picnic get-together on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 6 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

Those attending are asked to bring a main dish and a dish to share. Drinks will be furnished. The public is invited to attend.

Charges against students dropped

Charges of disorderly conduct and criminal mischief have been dismissed against John Steagall, Ty Zeller, Russell Britt, Bill Hays and four of five juveniles charged as a result of an April 4, 1990 incident. The incident occurred in Heppner when a motorist claimed that students had blocked her travel path and damaged her car.

According to Morrow County District Attorney Jeff Wallace, further investigation, including consideration of the results of polygraph examinations, led to the dismissals.

Due to the pending charges against the remaining juvenile, further details cannot be disclosed at this time. No hearing date has been set.

George Koffler graduates from banking school



George Koffler

George Koffler, executive vice president of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, recently completed course work and graduated from Pacific Coast Banking School. The school features a three-year resident session at the University of Washington in Seattle. In addition, each student is required to complete extension problems for the areas of business, finance, marketing, asset/liability

management and funds management. The last requirement is to complete an original thesis on a current topic in banking.

Koffler attended resident sessions in 1988, 1989 and 1990, graduating with a concentration in general bank management in August of 1990.

Koffler has been with the bank since August of 1979. He is currently manager of the Heppner Branch and a loan officer. He also has a variety of administrative areas of responsibility.

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, September 25
Soft White

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Sept. | \$3.10 |
| Oct. | \$3.11/\$3.13 |
| Dec. | \$3.18/\$3.20 |
| Jan. | \$3.21 |
| Barley | |
| Sept. | \$94 |
| Oct. | \$95/\$97 |
| Nov. | \$97 |
| Dec. | \$98 |
| Jan. | \$98 |
| Pik | 98 % |
| Government Grain | \$312 |



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