

Celebrating Our Partnership

1985 - 2000



Wir Feiern Unsere Partnerschaft



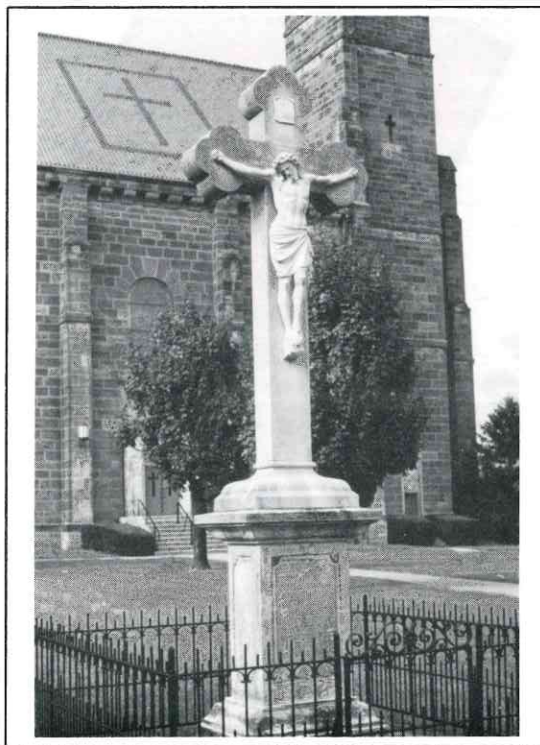
**Celebrating Our Partnership
Wir Feiern Unsere Partnerschaft**

*Mit diesem Buch
wollen wir die
Bemühungen und
zahllosen Stunden
von Martina and
Claude Eckert
würdigen, die
unsere
Partnerschaft zum
heutigen Stand
geführt haben.*



*This book is
dedicated to
Martina and Claude
Eckert who spent
countless hours of
their time and
promoted our
partnership to
where it is today.*

Ackerman Oil
Bob Luegers Motors
BR Associates
Buehler Foods
City of Jasper
Furniture Components
German American Bank
Indiana Humanities Council
Jasper Cabinet Company
Jasper Deutscher Verein
Jasper Engines and Transmissions
Jasper Strassenfest Committee
Keusch Brothers Glass
Kimball International
Kiwanis of Jasper
MasterBrand Cabinets
Old National Bank
Picture Perfect
Schnitzelbank Restaurant
Springs Valley Bank and Trust
Uebelhor & Son Motors



Baumann Cross (Kreuz), Jasper, Indiana

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Thank you for your support!**



Celebrating Our Partnership Wir Feiern Unsere Partnerschaft



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Baumann Kreuz vor der St. Josephskirche in Jasper, IN, USA

Im Jahre 1847 verliessen elf Familien Pfaffenweiler, Deutschland, in Richtung USA. Es waren die folgenden Familien:

Baumann, Eckerle, Eckert, Kiefer, Schuble, Stenftenagel, Beck, Erb, Kraft, Kraus und Schmidt.

Die Seereise war gefaehrlich und waehrend der ersten Woche der Fahrt war das Wetter so sturmisch, dass man glaubte das Schiff koennte jederzeit mit Passagieren und Mannschaft untergehen. Sie beteten. Als der Sturm am aergsten wuetete, schwor George Baumann, dass er ein Kreuz in ihrem neuen Heimatland errichten werde.

“In Erinnerung an unsere Vorfahren”
Herr und Frau James J. Stenftennagel

(siehe Bild auf der vorigen Seite)

Baumann Cross in front of St. Josephs Church in Jasper, IN, USA

In 1847, eleven families left Pfaffenweiler, Germany for the U.S. These families were as follows:

Baumann, Eckerle, Eckert, Kiefer, Schuble, Stenftenagel, Beck, Erb, Kraft, Kraus und Schmidt.

The voyage was a perilous one, and during the first week of its progress the weather was so hazardous that it seemed as though the ship would go down with its crew and passengers. They prayed. At the height of a storm, Mr. (George) Baumann made a vow to erect a cross near the church in their new homeland.

“In Commemoration of our Ancestors”
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Stenftennagel

(see photo on previous page)



Jasper Partnership Commission

April 17, 2000

Dear Friends of our Partnership:

The partnership that was formed in 1985 has grown into a strong relationship between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler. Our two communities have shared our lives and have experienced the true meaning of a Sister City. I am delighted to be able to travel to Pfaffenweiler this year to participate in the 15th Anniversary celebration. In addition to the festivities, Mayor Gutgsell and I will meet and discuss the progress of our communities. I feel this is another important step toward building the unity of Jasper and Pfaffenweiler.

Over the past 15 years our partnership has developed friendships, found and renewed family ties, and started programs which continue to be the heart of our relationship. We have shared exchanges in our school systems and in our work programs, and we have shared our weekly newspapers. We have hosted performers for the Strassenfest, formed the Partnership Commission, established a monthly Stammtisch and viewed a documentary film about the journey of Pfaffenweiler immigrants to Jasper. Projects like these, along with the vast number of personal communications, have strengthened our Sister City partnership.

I hope that our relationship will continue to grow so we can always celebrate our heritage with our friends and ancestors in Pfaffenweiler.

Sincerely,



William J. Schmitt, Mayor
City of Jasper

WJS/lak



Celebrating Our Partnership



Jasper Partnership Commission

It is with great delight that we have the opportunity to be a very small part in celebrating the friendship and partnership with our Sister City of Pfaffenweiler. As we participate in the preparations for our 15th Anniversary celebration, we are made even more aware with each passing day how much has been found and done during these years.

When comparing notes with representatives of many other Indiana communities at a recent annual meeting of Indiana Sister Cities International, it became even more apparent that we truly share a most special and unique partnership. It also became apparent to others and us, as we collected information for this recording of our partnership, that there is no realistic way to present to you all events, visits, exchanges and communications with the attention, feeling and detail it deserves. But we hope to provide you with a basic collection of the past 15 years, and you can fill in all the side stories, family ties, friendships, etc.

Additionally, there is no realistic way for us to recognize everybody who has been supporting this partnership in one manner or other. However, we both firmly believe that a very special thank you has to go to Martina and Claude Eckert. They were truly instrumental during the formative years in establishing the foundation for this partnership in Jasper. Thank you, Martina and Claude, for your vision and determination to get this relationship started.

Thank you very much to Martina and Claude Eckert for summarizing the first five years of our partnership in a hand typed diary written by Martha Rasche and supported with documents and pictures. It has been the foundation of this 15th anniversary book.

Thank you to all the financial Sponsors of this book, especially the Indiana Humanities Council, who has sponsored this publication with a Mini Grant.

Thank you to the City of Jasper and the Jasper Deutscher Verein.

Sincerely,

Bob Dilger, President
Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

Matthias Hilger, President
Jasper Partnership Commission



Celebrating Our Partnership



Foreword Of The First Five Years

While Pfaffenweiler Mayor Fritz Gutsell and his family were in Jasper in the spring of 1990, the Sister Cities officers and board of directors met informally at our home to discuss the future direction of Sister Cities of Jasper.

Fritz remarked, "It is unbelievable all the things that have taken place during these first five years." I agree. Having served as chairman of Sister Cities for these five years has been such a rewarding experience for Martina and me that we consider it the highlight of my retirement. We have enjoyed helping to open the lines of communication that were lost for 138 years.

I hereby express my sincere thanks to Martina and Martha for all the hours they spent in helping me put this history together.

Claude Eckert
1991

Excerpt from The History of Sister Cities of Jasper, Indiana Inc. – The First Five Years

A Dream Come True

Reflecting back to the forming of our Jasper Deutscher Verein in 1980 is a pleasant thought. Our dream or goal and purpose as a club, at that time and still today, is to promote and preserve our German heritage. The idea presented to us by the Reichmann's in 1984 to establish a Sister City Partnership with Pfaffenweiler seemed to serve our purpose and goal very well.

Little did we know how our dreams would be fulfilled. The re-establishment of lost family relationships, the building of new family to family relationships, supporting German language classes in our schools, and establishing the High School Exchange program have all been very exciting for the citizens of Jasper and I am sure for Pfaffenweiler also.

The travel between the two cities by individuals as well as club, church, city and other groups is almost unbelievable. It is impossible to measure the benefits of our partnership but for all of us who have experienced it I believe we agree: It has been great!

I personally thank and congratulate all who have been involved with our 15-year partnership in the past, present and most importantly the future. I'm looking forward to the next 15 years.

Dave Buehler



Celebrating Our Partnership



Greetings!

By Ruth and Eberhard Reichmann

It was in early 1984, when we traveled through the Black Forest toward Pfaffenweiler. Heavy snow had fallen. The big beautiful trees were all clad in white. We were to talk to the mayor about the possibility of a sister city arrangement with Jasper. Sabine Jordan, Humanist-in-Residence in Jasper a few years earlier, had suggested that Pfaffenweiler could become an ideal partner, since many settlers in Dubois County were immigrants from that town and neighboring villages.



*Entrance sign to Pfaffenweiler
Ortsschild Pfaffenweiler*

In Mayor Fritz Gutsell's office we chatted over a glass of Batzenberger Wine about the emigrants and the interest in Jasper to reconnect with Pfaffenweiler. We had taken a Dubois County telephone book along. "You want to see if we find any Gutsells in there?" we asked the mayor. He was amazed: "You have more Gutsells in Jasper than here in Pfaffenweiler!" And then we checked the Eckert

name and others. "Unglaublich" [unbelievable], he said. We talked about the Pfaffenweiler crosses on many of the street corners and that there was also one such cross at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Jasper, sculpted by Georg Baumann. The mayor took us to the village museum, which exhibited the story of emigration through photographs, letters, maps, tools and utensils. We could tell that Fritz Gutsell became excited, when he offered his help: "Wie kann ich helfen [How can I help]?"



Rathaus (City Hall) Pfaffenweiler

Since a group from Jasper was planning to visit Austria and Germany that September, we suggested that he invite them to Pfaffenweiler, and he did. We had a very good feeling when we left -- carrying two bottles of Batzenberger Wine and greetings from Pfaffenweiler to Jasper. The rest is history and we are glad that over the years we have been a part of this great relationship, based on close historical ties. On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Jasper-Pfaffenweiler friendship, our congratulations go to both communities for having made a real go of it.

Keep it up! Macht's gut!



Celebrating Our Partnership



Congratulations to Jasper, Indiana, and Pfaffenweiler in Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany!

By Sabine D. Jordan, Ph.D.
Ft. Collins, Colorado

Their celebration in the year 2000 of a 15-year exchange program testifies to the good will, energy, and hard work of citizens both here and beyond the Atlantic Ocean. To the best of my knowledge, this Sister-Cities program is one of the very few fulfilling the hopes and exemplifying the ideas of the program's founders. They had envisioned a true coming-together of people from around the world in order to foster human contacts and a better understanding among people all over the world.

Jasper and Pfaffenweiler accomplished this goal starting in 1985 with a first visit of a group of people from Pfaffenweiler to the American Midwest. Too often such international exchange programs then deteriorate into occasional exchanges between local dignitaries and Politicians while the communities' citizens are left out.

Not so in this case! Not only did private parties travel between the two towns, but also today both communities stay in constant contact by e-mail. The daily Dubois County Herald is sent to Pfaffenweiler, and people in Jasper can keep abreast of Pfaffenweiler events by reading the weekly S'Gmeiblaettle. There have been regular student exchanges, a letter-writing campaign between pupils at Jasper's Holy Family School and Pfaffenweiler's Grundschule, worker exchanges, visits by cultural groups to and from Europe, and, above all, reconnections of family ties that had been lost. Nobody, least of all I, could have foreseen this celebration 20 years ago when the people of Dubois County hired me as "Humanist-in-Residence" for one year. My task was to identify and help the people of Dubois County preserve their unique German-American heritage.

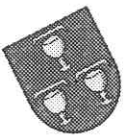
Upon discovering that many of the county's settlers had been part of the great German-emigration wave that started in Southwestern Germany in the early third of the 19th century, I found that many families in Jasper and its surroundings had come from small towns and villages in Baden. When I sent letters of inquiry to several communities in the Freiburg area, I was fully aware of the fact that answers were unlikely. The job I held and the

questions I asked did not fit any routine bureaucratic category. In all likelihood, they would be filed away somewhere without any reply. The one exception to this expected outcome was a letter from Mayor Emil Eckert of Pfaffenweiler. In our subsequent correspondence, I learned a lot about this German village, and I tried to send out as much information about Dubois County and its people as I could. A significant number of early settler families had come from Pfaffenweiler; however, the contact between their descendants and Pfaffenweiler families had been lost.

The great distance between places, slow and infrequent mail, political upheavals, and finally two world wars with people on opposing sides had left only a few things: old anecdotes from the Old Country, faith in the Catholic Church, some European folk customs, adherence to old-time German virtues such as frugality and hard work, and a variant of the Alemannic dialect, which had been kept intact in the middle of America. Mayor Eckert, on the other hand, had commissioned an exemplary history of his village, which included the story of those who had left the village to seek their fortunes abroad.



In 1983, during a German lecture tour, I met Mayor Eckert in person and had the opportunity also to meet his successor, Mayor Fritz Gutgsell. Their wish to renew contacts with their lost relatives was taken up by the then-director of Freiburg's German-American Institute, Heinz Scheer, and Indiana's representative of Sister Cities, Ruth Reichmann. Citizens in both communities did the rest and have continued to work and to broaden the exchange ever since. The exchange is theirs, for their mutual benefit and, I hope, for the benefit of their children, children's children and generations to come. May they never lose contact again!



Historical Perspective

In 1846, residents of Pfaffenweiler, Germany, settled in Jasper, Indiana. 138 years later, Dubois County residents went back and asked the community that spawned them to be Jasper's Sister City. Jasper, 50 miles north of the Ohio River in southwestern Indiana, is a city of 10,800 people. The community was platted in 1830 when it became the Dubois County seat. Home to many woodworking industries, Jasper is called "The Nation's Wood Capital."

Pfaffenweiler, in the foothills of the Black Forest, is a town of about 2,600 people. In the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, just south of Freiburg, the community lies 40 miles north of Switzerland and about 16 miles east of where the Rhine River borders France. Pfaffenweiler dates back more than 1200 years and is known for its stone quarries and for growing grapes and making wine.

In the 1840s, though, the grapes weren't so many and the wine wasn't so good. Father Joseph Kundek, who at that time was establishing St. Joseph's parish in the newly platted Jasper, knew the people of the Pfaffenweiler area -- predominantly Catholic -- were having difficulties. He knew the economy of the town was very bad due to poor weather conditions ruining the grape harvest; poor-quality grapes meant a low-quality wine that would not sell. He also knew they were experiencing a rapid population increase and a potato famine at the same time, resulting in a food shortage.

Furthermore, in the early 1800s, Baden had a system whereby a father divided his acreage equally among his sons, which resulted in ever-smaller parcels of land that could not grow enough crops to support a family. Worsening the situation was a custom of rotating the land, leaving a third of it fallow each year.

Father Kundek invited residents of the poor German town to join his new parish. On March 24, 1847, a total of 85 Pfaffenweiler men, women and children joined thousands of Germans who left that country in the 1840s heading for America, "Das Land Der Unbegrenzten Moeglichkeiten" -- The Land of Unlimited Opportunities. Among those making the 52-day trip on the sailing ship "Tallahassee" were families named Eckerle, Eckert, Erb, Kiefer, Kraft, Lang, Schmidt, Schuble and Steinle. Others making the trip were named Baumann, Beck, Brucker, Blattmann, Daeschle, Georg, Stenftenagel and Zipfel.

They sailed from Rotterdam through LeHavre, following the trade winds by sailing ship to New Orleans, then by boat up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Troy, Indiana, and on foot to Ferdinand and Jasper, where they arrived June 15, 1847.

Records show that one of the best-known episodes of the trip was that a terrible storm arose at sea and nearly caused the demise of all on board. Being devout Catholics, they knelt in prayer. A stone mason named Johann Georg Baumann promised the Lord that if they were delivered from this storm he would erect a monument at their destination, Jasper. A replica of the stone cross that he sculpted -- the original was destroyed by lightning in the 1930s -- still stands on the south side of St. Joseph's Church. Baumann later entered the Benedictine Seminary at Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and became a priest. Thereafter known as Father Theobald, he died on June 24, 1867.

Sabine Jordan, Ph.D., who was commissioned by the Jasper Community Arts Commission from June 1980, to June 1981, to research the German heritage of Dubois County and Jasper, Indiana, in part unearthed this history. The project, called "The German American Experience in Dubois County," also received partial support from local funds. Jordan solicited the assistance of Ruth Reichmann, Ph.D., the Indiana representative and state coordinator for Sister Cities International in Indiana.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower initiated the Sister Cities International program in 1956. Eisenhower believed it took people dealing with people to make peace and friendship, rather than governments dealing with governments. Every American president since then has served as honorary chairman and has endorsed and supported the program.

As part of her work, Jordan wrote every community from where Jasper immigrants came; Pfaffenweiler Mayor Emil Eckert was the only person to respond, and Jordan thought the community would make an excellent Sister City for Jasper. At this same time, the Jasper Action Team -- headed by Dave Buehler -- was searching for a Sister City.

When Jordan gave a lecture July 2, 1983, in Freiburg and talked about Jasper, the new mayor, Fritz Gutschell, took a busload of Pfaffenweiler residents to hear her. That group, too, got excited about the proposed partnership.

While in Germany in March of 1984, Ruth and Eberhard Reichmann met with Gutschell and suggested that he invite the people of Jasper to visit his town. Upon an invitation from the Buergermeister two months later, a delegation of 39 Jasper and other Dubois County citizens making a trip to Europe visited Pfaffenweiler in September of that same year. After spending two nights and one day in Pfaffenweiler, it was the consensus of the tour group that, because of the genealogy and heritage between the two towns, Pfaffenweiler and Jasper should become Sister Cities.





Partnership Milestones

September 1984

39 people from Jasper visit Pfaffenweiler and inquire of their interest in forming a partnership.

May 1985

41 people from Pfaffenweiler visit Jasper for official signing of partnership document.

April 1986

3 students from Pfaffenweiler attend Jasper High School for one month.

June 1986

5 students from Jasper High School attend Staufen Gymnasium for one month. All of them stay in Pfaffenweiler.

Fall 1986

Jutta Eisenring from Staufen comes to Jasper for the school year.

April 1987

23 students from Staufen Gymnasium, the high school near Pfaffenweiler, attend Jasper High School for one month – three are from Pfaffenweiler

Matthias Hilger of Pfaffenweiler begins training at Indiana Desk Company in Jasper.

June 1987

19 students from Jasper High School attend Staufen Gymnasium for one month – three stay in Pfaffenweiler

July/August 1987

52 people from Pfaffenweiler Batzenberger Winzerkapelle (brass band) attend/perform at Jasper Strassenfest.

Fall 1987

Sonja Hueppe from Pfaffenweiler comes to Jasper for the school year.

October 1987

Sister Cities of Jasper receives award of merit from Gov. Robert D. Orr.

Fall 1988

Justin Vaughn of Jasper goes to Germany for the school year.

Voelker Boehm comes to Jasper for the school year.



*Partnership Stone in Pfaffenweiler
Partnerschaftsstein in Pfaffenweiler*

September 1988

About 90 people from Jasper visit Pfaffenweiler to attend the Schneckenfest (Snail Festival) and participate in official dedication of Partnership Stone.

1989

Christine Gutschell of Pfaffenweiler becomes the first of three girls to work as au pairs for Kris and Steve Dill of Jasper. Ester Kotterer of Pfaffenweiler lives with the Dills for six months in the winter of 1989-90, and Karin Ludwig from Hartheim lives with them during the summer of 1991.

February 1989

Clemens Hueppe of Pfaffenweiler begins training at Kimball Electronics in Jasper.

April 1989

21 students from Staufen Gymnasium attend Jasper High School for one month – three are from Pfaffenweiler

May 12, 1989

Matthias Hilger of Pfaffenweiler weds Kathy Kunkel of Jasper.



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June 1989

19 students from Jasper High School attend Staufen Gymnasium for one month – three stay in Pfaffenweiler.

Fall 1989

Priscilla Fischer comes to Jasper for the school year.

January 1990

Vic Knies succeeds Claude Eckert as president of Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

November 1990

First shipment of Pfaffenweiler wine -- 1200 bottles of Mueller-Thurgau and Rulaender – arrived in Jasper for sale in Buehler supermarkets.

1991

Martina and Claude Eckert with the help of Martha Rasche, write a diary of the first five years of this Partnership.

August 1991

Miriam Steible of Pfaffenweiler begins six months of working as a nanny for Bob and Sherrie Reeves in Jasper.

Fall 1991

Esther Scholz spends the semester at Jasper High School.

October 1991

20 Students from Staufen Gymnasium attend Jasper High School for one month – seven are from Pfaffenweiler

May 1992

Darren Patterson participates in work exchange program in Germany; after his internship ends, he lives in Pfaffenweiler for three weeks.

June 1992

20 Students from Jasper High School attend Staufen Gymnasium for one month-seven stay in Pfaffenweiler.

September 1992

A small group of Jasper residents visit Pfaffenweiler during the Schneckenfest. A sundial is unveiled in honor of the partnership.



September 1992

Jasper-Pfaffenweiler Partnership leads to Celestine-Wagshurst connection.



Vic Knies presents a Strassenfest T-shirt to Bürgermeister Gutgesell

Vic Knies überreicht ein Strassenfest T-shirt an Bürgermeister Gutgesell.

October 1992

23 Students from Jasper High School attend Staufen Gymnasium for one month- six stay in Pfaffenweiler.

June 1993

24 Students from Jasper High School attend Staufen Gymnasium for one month six stay in Pfaffenweiler.

August 1994

80 people from Pfaffenweiler attend Jasper Strassenfest and participate in dedication of Partnership Stone in front of Jasper City Hall.

October 1994

20 Students from Staufen Gymnasium attend Jasper High School for one month – nine are from Pfaffenweiler.

June 1995

15 Students from Jasper High School attend Staufen Gymnasium for one month – nine stay in Pfaffenweiler
About 45 People from Jasper visit Pfaffenweiler to attend the Steibickfest (Stone Quarry Festival) to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Jasper-Pfaffenweiler partnership.



Celebrating Our Partnership

January 1996

Alexandra Eckerle of Pfaffenweiler begins working for Stens Corporation in Jasper

July 1996

Verena Frey of Pfaffenweiler arrives in Jasper through an agriculture exchange program; she works in the floral department at Buehler's Buy-Low.

Summer 1996

SDR, one German Public Television selects the Pfaffenweiler resident emigration of 1847 to Jasper story/history for a national documentary program. The 30-minute film is produced and filmed in Pfaffenweiler. German Public Television provides an English language version of the film to Sister Cities of Jasper in exchange for the English text of the original film and two chairs from Jasper Seating.

Matthias Hilger begins writing bi-weekly columns about Pfaffenweiler for The Herald, the Dubois County daily newspaper.

October 1996

30 Students from Staufen Gymnasium attend Jasper High School for one month – seven are from Pfaffenweiler.

January 1997

Bob Dilger succeeds Vic Knies as President of Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc.

1997

Jasper Partnership Commission formed. Its primary objective is to provide a central point for Sister City-related activities and to strengthen communications with Pfaffenweiler.



*Bürgermeister Gutgesell welcomes visitors from Jasper
Bürgermeister Gutgesell begrüsst Gäste von Jasper*

1997

The Herald begins sending its issues each week to Pfaffenweiler.

March 1997

Yvonne Michel of Pfaffenweiler begins job shadowing at Jasper Memorial Hospital.

June 1997

28 Students from Jasper High School attend Staufen Gymnasium for one month – seven stay in Pfaffenweiler

July/August 1997

13 people from Pfaffenweiler attend Jasper Strassenfest to commemorate the 150-year anniversary of Pfaffenweiler residents' immigration to Jasper.

October 1997

Simone Hoferer comes to Jasper from Pfaffenweiler to begin training at Jasper Furniture, a division of Kimball International.

Members of the Jasper German Club and other area residents who speak German begin holding monthly "Stammtisch" ("Table for the Regulars") at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant.

January 1998

The Pfaffenweiler newsletter, S'Gmeiblaettle (Community Paper), begins arriving in Jasper each week via e-mail.

July 1998

51 people, including stone carvers and alpine horn group, from Pfaffenweiler attend Jasper Strassenfest.

October 1998

21 Students from Staufen Gymnasium attend Jasper High School for one month- five are from Pfaffenweiler.

Glenn Weil, JHS Student Advisor, takes 800 digital photographs for a promotional slide presentation about the student exchange program and partnership.

June 1999

18 students from Jasper High School attend Staufen Gymnasium for one month – five stay in Pfaffenweiler

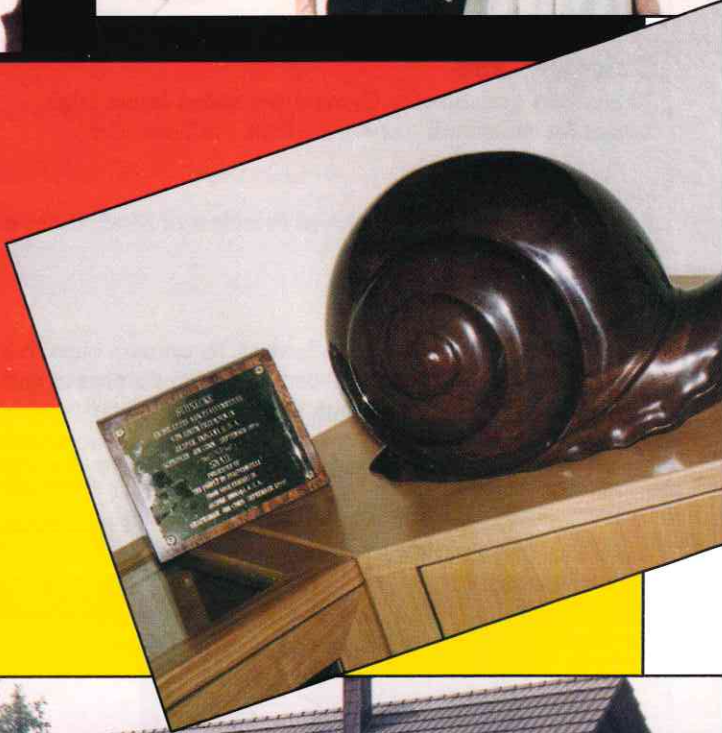
June 2000

Jasper contingent travels to Pfaffenweiler to celebrate 15th anniversary.

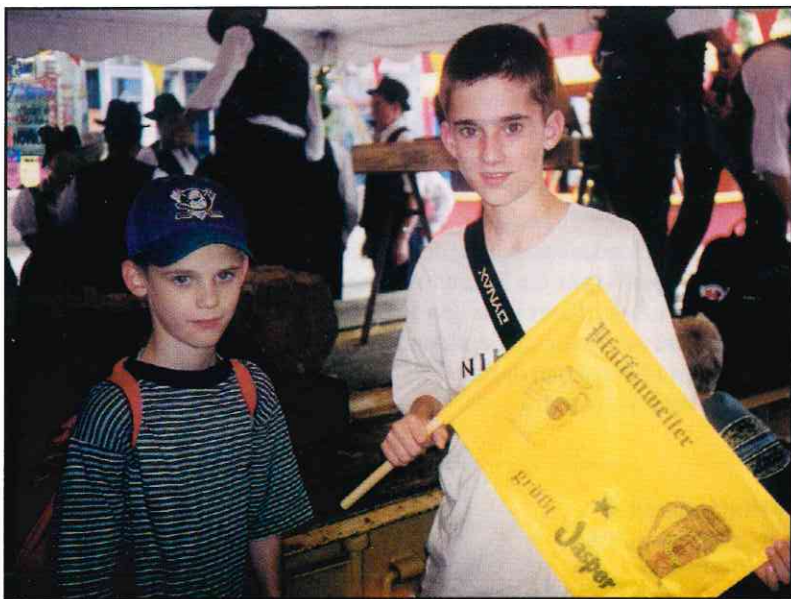
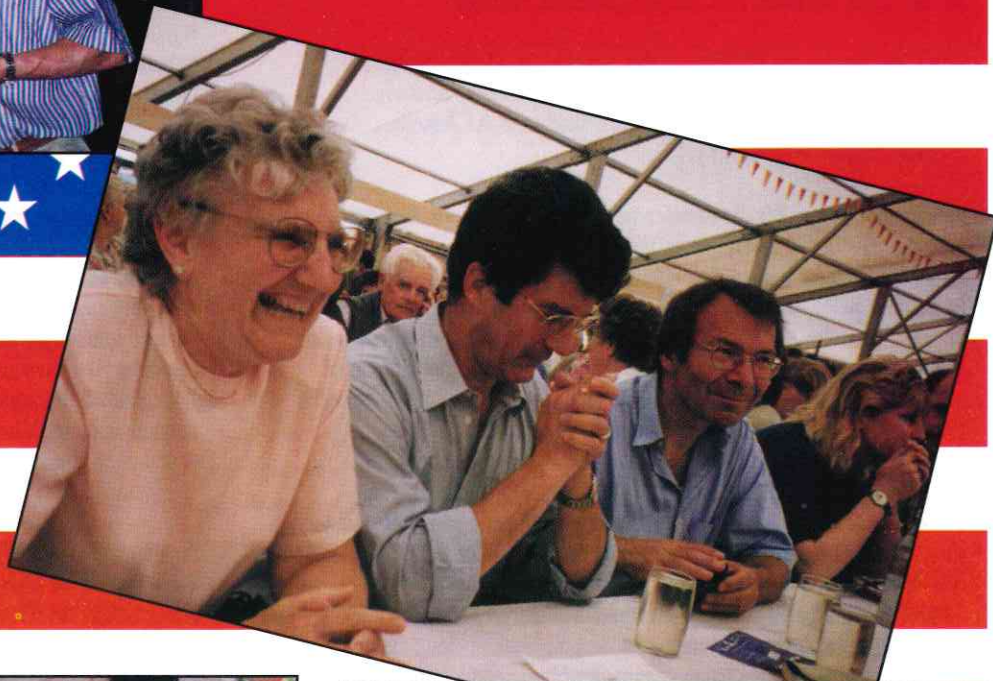
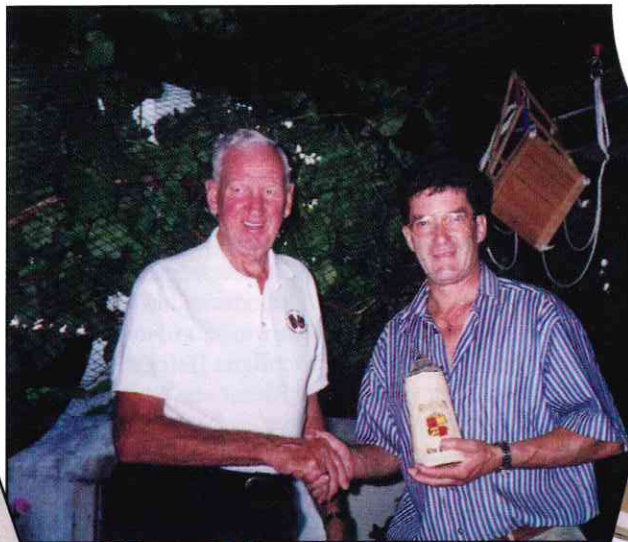
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Celebrating O *Wir Feiern Unse*



ur Partnership
re Partnerschaft





Celebrating Our Partnership



Pfaffenweiler Visitors

In May of 1985 a delegation of 41 citizens from Pfaffenweiler spent a week in Jasper. The highlight was the official signing of the charter by both cities' mayors, Jerome Alles and Fritz Gutsell, documenting the partnership known as Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., before an overflowing crowd at the Knights of Columbus Home.

Among gifts presented to Jasper by the German delegation were a Pfaffenweiler flag, an aerial-view photograph of the town, and a pair of joined stones from a Pfaffenweiler quarry. One stone was inscribed by Pfaffenweiler resident Waldemar Eckert to read: "The First Emigrants to Leave Pfaffenweiler Settled in Jasper." The other stone reads: "Jasper and Pfaffenweiler became Sister Cities May 23, 1985." The flag and stones were on permanent display in the genealogy room of Jasper for many years, but have been moved to the new City Hall in Jasper.

Jasper's gifts to Pfaffenweiler included a Strassenfest beer stein, Strassenfest buttons and a wooden plaque of Indiana -- made by Al Astrike -- with Jasper pinpointed. The Pfaffenweiler group's visit to southern Indiana included several tours. Some of the tours were the Convent of the Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, the Archabbey in St. Meinrad, and the site in Troy, Indiana, where the 11-foot-4-inch-tall "Christ on the Ohio" statue stands near where their ancestors debarked in Indiana to continue their trip on foot through Ferdinand to Jasper. This trail later became known as the Troy Road.

Herbert Jogerst, a native of Germany, sculpted the 6,200-pound limestone statue of Christ on the Ohio River. According to information provided by German Club member and Tell City resident Delores Flannagan, the statue was commissioned by Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas James of Tell City in 1956 and stands on their property a short distance from Troy to commemorate the rivermen's travels. It is illuminated at night and can be seen for many miles.

Other local sites showcased to the Germans included the Jasper Corporation cabinet manufacturing plant, a division of Kimball International; Alvin C. Ruxer's horse farm; St. Joseph's and Holy Family churches; the Schnitzelbank Restaurant; Wabash Valley Produce chicken farm; the Sara Lee Bakery egg-breaking plant; Lowell and Joan Glendenning's calf barn and veal operation; the 8,800-acre Patoka Lake and Recreation Area; Abraham Lincoln Boyhood National Park; and Holiday World amusement park.

Fire Chief Edward Eckert, also a descendant of the Eckert immigrants, donated his time to drive the tour bus, furnished courtesy of the Older Americans Center and the City of Jasper. Interpreters for the week were George Muenich, pastor of

Redeemer Lutheran Church; Mary Jo Meuser, German teacher at Jasper High School; and Kim Hulsman, a college student studying German at Ball State University.

Martina and Claude Eckert were in charge of arranging homestay for the delegation. They housed them in area homes on a couple-to-couple basis, which also is the way Jasper visitors were housed when visiting Pfaffenweiler in September 1984. This system offers many advantages in getting to know one another and is a true cultural and lifestyle experience.

What makes the partnership so unique is that it is based on heritage and genealogy. Out of this partnership many rewarding experiences have developed. Many friendships have been made and many families have been reunited.

An example: Included in the 41-member German delegation were Gustav and Luise Kiefer and Stefan and Agatha Kiefer. They, like everyone else, were eager to find out if anyone with their surname lives in Jasper. Hermie Kiefer, who served the Jasper fire department for 50 years, learned that Gustav Kiefer served on the fire department in Pfaffenweiler. When Hermie showed an old picture of his grandfather's house (the Kiefer Villa) in Pfaffenweiler to Stefan, Stefan exclaimed, "This is my house. I live here!"

Although some remodeling had been done since the picture was taken, the two men soon realized that their grandfathers were brothers; Stefan and Hermie were second cousins.

Another example: Relatives of Fritz Gutsell held a reunion while he was here, as did several other local families and their German relatives. The morning of May 30 was time for departure. Everyone gathered in the north parking lot of St. Joseph's Church. Dorothy Bartley and Robert Reyling provided music, and the entire group sang. As the guests sang "Grosser Gott" ("Holy God We Praise Thy Name"), ringing church bells signaled it was time for morning Mass. As the church clock struck 8 o'clock, the group sang "Auf Wiedersehen" and everyone from Pfaffenweiler waved a miniature American flag.

Two years later, 52 people from the Pfaffenweiler Batzenberger Winzerkapelle, the village's brass band, performed at the Jasper Civic Auditorium and the Jasper Strassenfest. In German costume, the band performed a variety of folk dances that gave Jasper residents a better appreciation of the Pfaffenweiler culture. The weekend culminated with the Strassenfest parade that Sunday afternoon, during which the group was exposed to the 104-degree (Fahrenheit) heat and humidity of an Indiana summer.





Celebrating Our Partnership



Jasper Residents Visit Pfaffenweiler

From August 30 to September 9, 1988, a total of 92 citizens of Jasper and the surrounding area visited Pfaffenweiler to complete the two cities' official partnership. Buergermeister Gutsell, archivist Eddy Weeger and Wolfgang Joas met the group at the airport in Stuttgart and took them by bus to the House of Parliament. In the dining room, they were the guests at a reception and lunch given by Staatssekretaer and Landtagsabgeordneter Gundolph Fleischer and Landtagspraesident Erich Schneider.

After a tour of the Parliament building and downtown Stuttgart, the group traveled south through the edge of the Black Forest to Pfaffenweiler. They were met upon arrival, at about 5 p.m., by a large group of residents, the Batzenberger Winzerkapelle and a group of singing schoolchildren. Two of the children, Jasmin Michel and Harold Schuble, gave a narration of the emigration of the people from Pfaffenweiler. Bread and wine were served while much handshaking and hugging was going on.

On September 1, the group went by bus to the Kaiserstuhl. On the way, they had a picnic at the Katzensteinbruch (Cat Stone Quarry) and stopped off for a tour of Stefanmuenster (St. Steven Cathedral), which is more than 1,000 years old. From there, the tour continued to Breisach to visit one of the largest cooperative wineries in Germany, where Karl Kiefer was the Kellermeister (cellar master). After learning a bit about how grapes are processed and wine is made -- and, of course, tasting some -- the group returned to Pfaffenweiler to meet another group of visitors from Jasper. Again, gifts were exchanged and dignitaries gave speeches. One of the most impressionable gifts was a large wooden snail, hand-carved out of a block of African mahogany by German Club member James Corn.

Many years ago, snails -- which thrived on fallen grapes -- were pests to vineyard-growers. Try as they did, the vineyard owners could find no way to get rid of the slippery pests. When times were hard and food was scarce, Germans followed France's lead and began eating the snails; they ate so many they nearly made the snails extinct. Today in the Schneckenatal (Snail Valley), Pfaffenweiler celebrates an annual fall festival in honor of the snail, the pest that turned out to be a sought-after food.

At 10 a.m. the following day the Memory Monument was unveiled. The monument was designed and erected by its sculptor, Waldemar Eckert, to stand forever in memory of the immigrants' descendants who returned to Pfaffenweiler to complete the Sister Cities Partnership. A linden tree was planted behind the monument to replace a tree that had died after shading the area for 100 years.

The opening ceremonies of the Schneckenfest (Snail Festival) were held at 6 p.m. that day at the archway entrance to the festival. Claude Eckert and Buergermeister Gutsell lit the ceremonial candle to begin the celebration. A reception and evening meal was held at the Winzergenossenschaft Stube (the winery reception room), where many gifts and short speeches were exchanged.

On Saturday, the group attended a pageant at which adults of Pfaffenweiler depicted the emigration of the first citizen of Pfaffenweiler, Alois Eckert, who came to Jasper in 1846. After investigating the conditions in Jasper that year, he returned to Pfaffenweiler to get his family and others to join him in 1847.

Special church services were planned for Sunday morning. Father Adalbert Roth officiated, and Ed Eckert, Vic Knies and Buergermeister Gutsell did the readings. For about two hours that afternoon, eight members of the Buttons and Bows Square Dance Club (Stan and Mary Jane Krempf, Jim and Delores Hopf, George and Sue Lythgoe, Claude and Martina Eckert) performed western-style square dancing through the Schneckenfest area.

A large part of the visitors left for home September 5. The rest of the travelers were taken by bus to tour the Freiburg Muenster, where they ate lunch in the courtyard surrounding the cathedral, before returning to Pfaffenweiler to eat dinner with their host families.

On September 6, group members started through the Muenstertal by bus, making their way through the Black Forest to St. Blasien, where they were treated to a fine meal in a restaurant overlooking the old abbey. In the town museum, Buergermeister Johann Meier of St. Blasien heartily welcomed them with a wine toast.

That evening a "Heimatabend" (a traditional folk evening) was held at the Batzenbergerhalle in Pfaffenweiler. The local clubs put on skits and other talented demonstrations, and the Jasper square dancers again demonstrated their talents. The remainder of the evening was spent conversing and dancing to music.

Wednesday was a free day for all to spend with their hosts. On Thursday morning, the travelers rode a bus to the Stuttgart airport for their return flight to the United States. They carried with them a snail weather vane from the people of Pfaffenweiler. The weather vane was installed on the roof of the old Gramelspacher-Gutzweiler house -- now home to the Dubois County Museum -- on Main Street in Jasper.





Celebrating Our Partnership



Subsequent Visits

After the first visits were exchanged between Pfaffenweiler and Jasper, many more visits followed. Some of the visiting groups were large and official, representing the Partnership; other trips were informal vacations between friends and family.

In early summer 1990, Pfaffenweiler Buergermeister Fritz Gutsell and his wife, Brigitte, and sons Stephan and Tobias, along with Franz and Barbara Hilger, visited Jasper for two weeks. Jasper residents in Pfaffenweiler for the 1992 Schneckenfest were on hand when Pfaffenweiler officials dedicated a sundial to the Sister Cities partnership. The sundial was put on display in Town Hall.

The next official group from Pfaffenweiler visiting Jasper came for the 1994 Strassenfest. With each visit, there are gift exchanges and formal welcoming ceremonies, usually led by the local fire department, with sirens and flashing lights. As with the first visits, guests stay with local host families and participate in various activities, including local tours and sightseeing, with them.

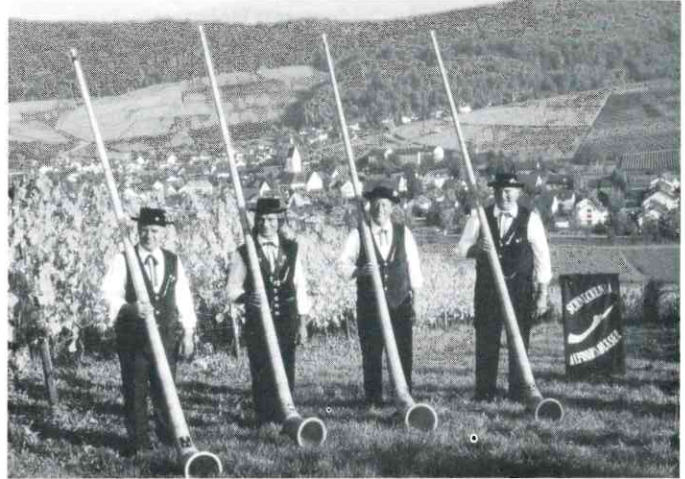
Among 80 people making the trip in 1994 were the Pfaffenweiler Four Man Entertainment Band and the Pfaffenweiler Accordion Orchestra and Traditional Costume Dance Group. As always when musical instruments accompany the guests, the instruments require a schedule of their own -- loading, unloading, getting out of the heat and humidity and into air-conditioning as quickly as possible, and checking acoustics. A beautiful concert and stage play at the Civic Auditorium was part of the festivities that year.

The Sister City Stone in front of the new City Hall also was unveiled. The stone says: "We are friends. The citizens of Jasper hereby commemorate the partnership between the city of Pfaffenweiler, Germany, and the city of Jasper, Indiana. Recognizing the value of our heritage and to promote continuing friendship, we unite our efforts to this mutual goal."

The tenth anniversary of the Jasper/Pfaffenweiler Sister Cities Partnership was celebrated in Pfaffenweiler in 1995. About 40 people from Dubois County made the trip to Germany, as did Dr. Sabine Jordan. The trip was a gift to Dr. Jordan from the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club), Jasper Sister Cities and Pfaffenweiler to say "Thank you" for all her hard work in making the Partnership possible.

Thirteen Pfaffenweiler residents visited Jasper for the 1997 Strassenfest. That festival celebrated Jasper's German heritage and reflected on the difficulty Pfaffenweiler immigrants had in getting to the United States 150 years before. A year later, 51 Pfaffenweiler residents visited Jasper.

The first official partnership meeting between both cities took place during that visit. Mayor Bill Schmitt, Buergermeister Fritz Gutsell, other representatives of both city governments, Partnership Commission members, a translator and others met in the Jasper City Council Chambers. What occurred was a lively discussion of both communities' histories, their commonalities, economies, government structures and other topics.



*Alpine Horn Blowers from Pfaffenweiler
Alphornbläser aus Pfaffenweiler*

Also that year, Pfaffenweiler's unique Alpine Horn Blowers and Stone Carvers Group were part of the Strassenfest entertainment.

The first sounds of an alpine horn, blown by Joseph Waibel, were heard in the Snail Valley in 1991. Waibel is now part of a quartet that performs above the village of Pfaffenweiler on Monday evenings from spring to fall. The alpine horn is native to Switzerland and traditionally was used by mountaineers for signaling and calling cattle. Made from wood covered with fiber or bark, the horns range in size from 3 to 12 feet long and vary in appearance depending on the territory in Switzerland where they were used.

The Stone Carvers Group was founded in 1983 by the late stone mason Master Craftsman Waldemar Eckert. His intentions were to restore the historical stone quarries around Pfaffenweiler and to cultivate the traditional craftsmanship of the stone masons using only hand tools. His son, Michael Eckert, took his father's place and has a successful stone-carving company; people from throughout Europe commission him. As a result of the group's work, stone quarries in the Pfaffenweiler forests were restored and opened as museums. Now Pfaffenweiler hosts an annual Steibickfest or Stone Quarry Festival, which Jasper residents will attend in June, 2000, as part of the Partnership's 15th anniversary celebration.



Celebrating Our Partnership



Work Exchange Program

Matthias Hilger

In 1987 Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., sponsored its first practical youth trainee. Matthias Hilger, a 23-year-old Pfaffenweiler man, wanted to further his studies in the woodworking industry.

When applying for a visa to America, a student or trainee must show the American Consulate proof of having been promised a job and a place to live -- so Stan Krempp promised Matthias a job at the Indiana Desk Company and Martina and Claude Eckert assured him a place to live. As a result of this, he was granted a visa for 18 months.

When he arrived on April 23, 1987, Stan and Claude met him at the airport in Indianapolis. The Eckerts' grandson, Eric Arvin, found "Matthias" hard to say. "Can't we just call you 'Matt'?" he asked. With Matthias's approval, he has since been called "Matt" by everyone in Jasper.

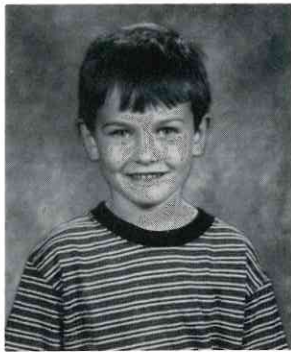
Claude helped him find a car, and Paul Uebelhor from Uebelhor & Sons made his first special deal for exchange workers with Matt, promising to buy the car back before Matt's return to Germany 18 months later.

During his nine months at Indiana Desk Co. he worked in many different departments, from the raw cut of the board to the packaging of the desks. His second part of the internship was with Aristokraft; for nine months, he had the opportunity to be part of the industrial engineering department at the Lamination Plant #5 in Huntingburg. After a successful career with Indiana Desk Co. (now Indiana Furniture Industries) until 1994, he now works for Furniture Components, which is an independent sales organization serving the wood industry.

A year after arriving in Jasper, Matt met Kathy Kunkel. They married on May 12, 1989. They have two children, Amanda (born in 1991) and Alexander (born in 1993).



Amanda Hilger

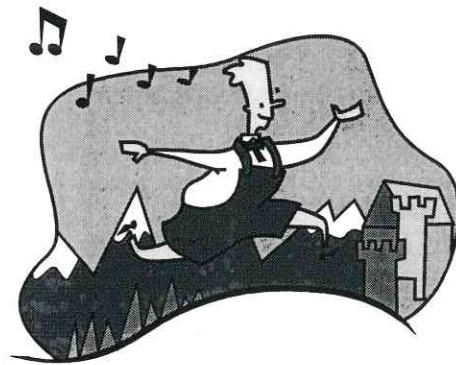


Alexander Hilger

Clemens Hueppe

The next youth trainee was Pfaffenweiler's Clemens Hueppe, a brother to Sonja Hueppe who spent a year at Jasper High School. Clemens applied in August 1988 for the job-training program, in electronics. After considerable negotiations, the officials of Kimball Electronics and Claude Eckert finally achieved acceptance for six months of training.

Studying and working began in February 1989. Mr. and Mrs. Al Schuler provided home stay and adopted him as part of the family. As a result of Clemens' stay in Jasper, Claude and Martina Eckert were guests of honor at Clemens' wedding in Germany in 1998.



Darren Patterson

The only professional person from Jasper taking on the challenge to work in Germany for further education and expansion of his own professional experience has been Darren Patterson.

In 1992, Darren participated in a four-month exchange program designed to introduce students to business in different cultures. He spent time in Germany, working in Rottenburg and visiting Pfaffenweiler. His internship was sponsored through Indiana University and Sister Cities International of Indiana. It allowed him to work several weeks at a German bank in jobs such as check clearing, marketing, foreign affairs and customer service. His basic job was to observe and write a project report. His sponsor company was the "Volksbank" or "People's Bank," a large nationwide cooperative.

After his internship ended, he lived in Pfaffenweiler for three weeks. Mary Jo Meuser, Jasper High School German teacher, was staying with the mayor and his family, and they teamed up to help Darren find the Gerhard Wagner family to host him during his stay. "When I went there, they really treated me well," Darren said. "They went out of their way to make me feel welcome."



Celebrating Our Partnership

Alexandra Eckerle

For exactly one and a half years, Alexandra Eckerle lived in Jasper with Joe and Irene Eckerle, one of her distant relatives. Starting January 24, 1996, Alexandra worked for Stens Corporation on a special visa organized through Sister Cities International. Janet Schultheis of Stens made it possible for her to work at Stens Corporation, a worldwide distributor of spare parts for outdoor equipment.

While with Stens, Alexandra had the opportunity to work in various departments of the company, using her past experience in the distribution business and learning how things are run with Stens. She started in the warehouse, getting familiar with the extensive product line Stens offers its customers and getting to know Stens' operating system. Participating in the daily work of the marketing and accounting department extended her studies further. Alexandra also spent a lot of time in the customer service department, helping serve customers on the telephone, taking orders and advising them.

Stens included an article about Alexandra in its newsletter on the company Web page. "A stay like this will change your life," Alexandra says in the newsletter. "You learn a lot about the people in your Sister City, the country, lifestyle and culture." It is always very impressive, and sometimes even overwhelming during a work program like this, she said, to have so many helpful people trying to make a young person feel welcome and gain new experiences.

Unfortunately her unique 18-month visa expired way too fast and she had to leave right after the Strassenfest in August 1997. After some time with her family in Pfaffenweiler, she planned to work for a large wine and champagne distributor in Hamburg, Germany.

Verena Frey

Besides all the woodworking possibilities in Jasper, there are many other ways a young person from another country can gain experience in his or her career. Verena Frey arrived in Jasper on July 9, 1996, through the worldwide Communicating For Agriculture exchange program. The program concentrates on working with young individuals in the agricultural and horticultural industry.

She was the first person coming to Jasper from Pfaffenweiler through this organization, but her desire to come to the U.S. to learn more in her profession and expand her language knowledge was met with some challenges. First she had planned to go to Portland, Oregon, but delays in the visa process forced her potential employer in Portland to cancel. So the floral department of Buehler Foods in Jasper offered her a job. While

it was not the training in high-end floral work she had hoped for, it was still extended training for her.

Then the next challenge came: finding a flight at a time when the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, were ready to get on their way. Then, personal reasons forced the original host family to take back its invitation just a week before Verena's arrival. Dave and Janet Kluemper provided her a home.

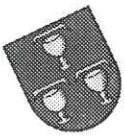
Verena had had two three-year apprenticeships: one as a floral designer and one as a gardener. Her floral studies included designing and creating floral arrangements for birthdays and weddings, caring and maintaining fresh-cut flowers, managing a small floral department and designing window displays. As a gardener and landscaper, she has been trained in designing, planting, fertilization, maintaining, storing and distributing decorative plants, bushes and trees, vegetables, flowers and fruits. As a member of the International Society for Young Gardeners, she has represented Germany a few times internationally.

From the beginning of her time in Jasper, she had to adjust to a very different way of creating flower arrangements. This is probably the hardest part for a young craftsman -- to put aside many basic rules and guidelines she learned at school and from her professional master, and to adapt to a completely different working environment. The adjustment requires patience, respect and a very open mind on the part of both the visiting craftsman and the manager of the department she is working in.

Verena worked in Jasper until October 10, 1996. After returning to Germany, she planned to get a master's degree in floral design.



*Mary Jo Meuser and Fritz Gutgesell with students
Mary Jo Meuser Und Fritzgutsell mit Studenten*



Celebrating Our Partnership



Yvonne Michel

Yvonne Michel arrived in Jasper from Pfaffenweiler on March 20, 1997, through a special working visa with Sister Cities International. Vic and Monica Knies already had arranged for her to stay with them at their house and welcomed the young lady as their "new granddaughter" from Germany.

Not even 18 years old at that time, she had to take certain health tests before starting to "job-shadow" in Jasper Memorial Hospital. Sister M. Adrian Davis, Ph.D., at Memorial Hospital helped organize all the details with Vic Knies for Yvonne.

To actually work in the medical field in the U.S. would require a very complex visa, which was not practical for the short time of Yvonne's visit and for the experience she was looking for. The Jasper hospital had put together a fantastic and versatile training program for her, where she could see and get some hands-on experience in almost twenty departments of the hospital operation: patient accounts, laboratory, library services, quality services, radiology, cardiopulmonary, rehabilitation services, just to mention a few of them. Over a two-month period, Yvonne saw new life come into the world, saw wealth and poverty, joy and suffering. She was "very shocked by the poor living conditions" of some of the homes she had visited during her stint with the hospital's home care department and was very "saddened" by the high cancer rate in the county.



During the month of June, Yvonne observed the work of Dr. Terry Brown and continued with Dr. William Lehmkuhler during July. The two-month hospital "work" was a great experience and full of excitement for Yvonne.

After the annual Strassenfest in August, she spent the rest of the month traveling through the United States with her boyfriend, Uli Thoma, who arrived in Jasper in mid-June. He stayed with Kathy and Bob Pfister.

Yvonne can't express enough all the things she has learned for herself as a person and as a professional, and all the fun she experienced while in Jasper. Over all, it was an experience she will never forget. She has continued to work in some hospitals and health care settings in Germany, and is planning to go into

either emergency or surgical nursing when she begins nursing school in October 2000.

Simone Hoferer

Simone Hoferer completed all her basic German schooling, graduated second from the Cabinet Maker Technology School in Freiburg, won several awards for outstanding design work and was awarded the Young Craftswoman Award for outstanding performance. She attended extra classes toward completing her Master Title, participated and completed a new school experiment for Management in Trade, participated in extra courses for Environmental Friendly Finishes, and took classes of economic English. And while doing all this, she still made time for painting, drafting, para-gliding and playing the percussion.

Simone is not a native of Pfaffenweiler but lived in an apartment in Pfaffenweiler before coming to Jasper. She was a trained cabinet maker and worked in the neighbor town Schallstadt northwest of Pfaffenweiler. The small Woodworking Shop Schreinerei Raymond Engler where she was employed did some contract work, but most of its projects were architectural millwork and interior woodwork. With 10 employees and state-of-the-art equipment including panel saws, computer-controlled edge bander, point-to-point machines and much more smaller equipment, they produced a huge amount of business out the door, every piece completely different.

To earn her next higher degree in the wood industry, the Master Title, she had to complete at least 36 months of practical work experience as a cabinet journeyman. With the initiative of her boss, Raymond Engler, they decided to help her gain not just working experience, but also to try to get her language and cultural experience in another country. What better opportunity is there than having a Sister City in the United States! As much as Mr. Engler disliked her leaving his young company, he knew he needed to provide as much opportunity as possible for her advancement.

On October 1, 1997, Simone arrived in Jasper and stayed until August 1, 1998. Sister Cities International provided the visa and Jasper Furniture, a division of Kimball International, provided her employment for training. Daniel Gutgsell and Danny Wehr organized this for her. She had the opportunity to work for Jasper Furniture in the quality department, implementing a simple tracking system for rejects and defects, and she worked in the Model and Special Project Shop. With her friendly personality she quickly made friends and, while she learned a lot, she was able to teach many things to Jasper Furniture also. Dave and Janet Kluemper opened their home to Simone. She learned how to ride horseback: and had her own horse with the Kluempers.



Celebrating Our Partnership



Student Exchange Program

The international interactions fostered by the Sister Cities Program have not been limited to adults. Young people, especially students, also have benefitted from the relationship. Eager to travel, observe, try out their foreign language education and learn about another culture firsthand, 15 to 30 Jasper High School students travel to Germany for a month every other summer, students from the former West Germany travel to Jasper every other October, and students from the former East Germany visit Jasper every other April. Many of the exchange students have developed lifelong friendships with each other.

The exchange program started in the spring of 1986, when Jasper hosted three high school students from Pfaffenweiler: Sonja Hueppe, Sabine Schuler and Annette Ueblacker. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burke hosted Sabine, Mr. and Mrs. David Berger hosted Sonja, and Mr. and Mrs. David Kieffner hosted Annette.

Joachim Sprotte, the girls' German teacher, accompanied them; he stayed with Stan and Gayle Jochum. Other teachers from the German program who would become important to organizing and carrying out the exchanges were Erika Koenig and Rainer Hertel.

In late May 1986, five Jasper students visited Pfaffenweiler and joined their counterparts there in attending the consolidated school in Staufen. These five students were Max Verkamp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Verkamp; Ronald Wagner, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Ralph Wagner; Janet Blessinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Blessinger; Danelle Kieffner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Kieffner; and Renae Burke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burke.

That fall, Jutta Eisenring came to Jasper from the Staufen school system to begin one full year of studies. A "Grade-A" senior who played saxophone in the school band, she lived with Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hayden.

In 1987 Sonja Hueppe returned to Jasper to enroll at the high school for her senior year of studies. She took up her fifth foreign language and when she graduated from Jasper High School in 1988 she did so with honors. Her host families were Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Sammons, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Helfter and Mrs. and Mrs. Leon Fleck.

Justin Vaughn of Jasper, the son of Bob and Veda Vaughn, spent the 1988-89 school year studying in Germany.

In April 1987, a group of 23 students came to Jasper under the Sister Cities school exchange program. The Jasper students who were planning to go to Germany on the exchange program for one month provided homes, following the understood policy: If you plan to be one of the student exchanges, you must provide a home for one of the visiting students.

In addition to attending classes at Jasper High School, German exchange students are exposed to local sports (Jasper baseball coaches Ray Howard and Terry Gobert spend a few days teaching them baseball and they learn to tee off on a local golf course), tour local factories, learn line dancing or square dancing, and visit Spring Mill State Park and Amish country. They go on an overnight trip to St. Louis, Missouri, and, on their way back to Germany are given a tour of Chicago by Jasper alumnus Kent Seger.

Mayor Bill Schmitt invites each group of exchange students for pizza and a tour of the city hall. Weather permitting, they ride the fire truck to the mayor's office and later tour the fire and police stations.

Nineteen Jasper High School students went to Pfaffenweiler and Staufen in June 1987 to spend 30 days studying and touring Europe. Stan and Gayle Jochum, both teachers at Jasper High School, chaperoned the group; Mary Jo Meuser, the school's German teacher, served as tour sponsor and manager; and Claude Eckert assisted as financial coordinator. In later years, Jasper guidance counselor Glenn Weil would become part of the program.



Mary Jo Meuser and Rainer Hertel

Much of the financing of the exchanges comes from endowments and grants from local businesses and supportive individuals. Some funds also are received from Sister Cities International, the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), Sister Cities of Jasper, the Jasper German Club and student fund raisers -- cookbook, candy and bake sales; craft shows; chili dinners and dances, quilt raffles and Strassenfest booths. Students and their parents pay the remaining costs.



Celebrating Our Partnership

A selection committee comprised of three members of the Sister Cities Board of Directors selects the students most qualified for this opportunity.

In addition to their sweat equity, Jasper students are involved in educational projects before and after their trip. They prepare individual and group reports about aspects of German culture and about some of their side trips -- to the Black Forest, Berlin, Munich, Dresden, Weimar and Leipzig in Germany, France and Switzerland. They also keep journals.

In Germany, they are required to spend at least 12 days in school and always are guests at receptions given by the Staufen and Pfaffenweiler Buergermeisters.

In 1989 Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., again assisted the high school with student exchanges to Pfaffenweiler and Staufen by helping with the finances and other details. Twenty-one students from the Pfaffenweiler and Staufen area visited and studied in Jasper from March 14 to April 10. From May 29 to June 26 of that same year, 19 students from Jasper visited and studied in Germany.

And so the exchanges continued. Following German unification, there were no exchanges in 1990. The 1991 exchange was canceled because of the Gulf War. Back on track in 1992, exchange students generally stay with local families, attend classes or follow a special schedule set up to expose them to a variety of subjects in a short amount of time, and enjoy witnessing local culture firsthand through tours and field trips.



When the Berlin Wall came down, schools in what had been West Germany were partnered with schools in former East Germany. Staufen's partner school in the East, Am Weissen Turm in Poesneck, in a way became Jasper's partner school too; beginning with the 1995 trip, exchange students from Jasper High School began spending a week of their month-long German visit in Poesneck. Helga Krause is the teacher who handles the exchanges in Poesneck.

A reunion of Jasper High School exchange students became part of the 1997 Strassenfest and was repeated in 1999. Jutta Eisenring attended the 1997 reunion, and Jorg Franke, who stayed with Chris Rasche and his family during one of the first student exchanges, attended the 1999 reunion.

Also in 1999, Pfaffenweiler's Caroline Niedermeier was scheduled to be a bridesmaid in Melanie Bachman's wedding in Jasper. The girls had stayed at each other's homes during the exchange program in 1992. Although chicken pox prevented Caroline from being at the wedding, it seems no geographical lines or distances can prevent the friendship that started between schoolgirls from continuing between adults.

Many of the other students also who participated in the Jasper/Pfaffenweiler exchanges have been back for subsequent visits. Because of these strong friendships between the young people of the two communities, the Sister Cities partnership is sure to continue into the future as the young people move into the leadership roles and become responsible for keeping the partnership going.



Sundial (Sonnenuhr) in Pfaffenweiler

Au Pairs

Four other German girls have participated in a less formal work program in Jasper: Three lived with Kris and Steve Dills and worked as au pairs for them, and the fourth was an au pair for Bob and Sherrie Reeves. Christine Gutsell, from Pfaffenweiler, was a nanny for three months in 1989. Ester Kotterer, also of Pfaffenweiler, worked for six months, starting at Christmas 1998. Karin Ludwig, from Hartheim, a community close to Pfaffenweiler, lived with the Dillses for three months in the summer of 1999. Miriam Steible lived with the Reeveses from August 1991 to February 1992.



Celebrating Our Partnership



Pen Pals

Letters also have been exchanged between our Sister Cities. Besides the letters between long-lost and newfound relatives and friends have been letters between students.

In early 1986, Marilyn Nathan, a local German teacher, initiated a pen pal program between her third-grade students at Holy Family School and their counterparts in Pfaffenweiler. She contacted their school and with a mutual agreement some 20 students put her idea into practice.

One of those 20 students was Chris Dilger, the son of Bob and Sharon Dilger, who established a pen pal relationship with Florian Mathiss, son of Alfons and Sieglinde Mathiss. That friendship resulted in a reciprocal visit for the parents of these boys during the 1987 Strassenfest and the 1988 Schneckenfest. Bob knew his ancestors came from St. Maergen, so Alfons and Sieglinde found an archivist near St. Maergen who compiled a detailed genealogy of the Lorenz and Katharina Scherzinger-Dilger family and presented the findings to the Dilgers during the 1988 visit. The Mathisses also took the Dilgers to visit the family homestead, Teehof, which still stands in Hinterstrass near St. Maergen.

Crafts

An exchange of crafts developed also. When Barbara and Franz Hilger visited Jasper in 1987, Mrs. Hilger was amazed at the beautiful Hearts Delight quilt that Martina Eckert had made. Quilt-making was a new craft for them, and Mrs. Hilger and Mrs. Gisela Hueppe both enrolled in quilting lessons in Freiburg upon their return home.

At the same time, Martina and Claude Eckert were interested in acquiring a Tracht (traditional costume) native to Pfaffenweiler. Mrs. Hilger informed them they could not buy such a costume but that she could make them to order. She and Martina agreed on an exchange: Martina would make her a quilt and she would sew for the Eckerts the complete Tracts, including the hats.

Gisela Hueppe and Barbara Hilger have been members of the Quilt Guild in Freiburg since many years now. Also in Pfaffenweiler a large interest has been raised in this type of art. The adult program of the parish offers quilting classes regularly every winter in its program. A part of the product designed and made during these classes will be on exhibit in the parish center of Pfaffenweiler on Saturday June 17th, 2000, during the official 15th anniversary visit by Jasper.

In 1988 Martina made a Hearts Delight quilt for Fritz and Brigitte Gutsell. Sally Lechner and several women who contributed their quilting talents assisted her. The quilt was presented to the Gutsells in the opening ceremonies of the 1988 Schneckenfest.

In 1999, Kathy Hilger, Sally Lechner, Patti Goeprich, Louise Gutsell, Lois Kuntz spearheaded an effort to create a quilted wall hanging with an Indiana Puzzle/Snail Trail patchwork design to present to Pfaffenweiler during the June 2000 partnership celebration. Host families will receive framed miniatures of the design.

Communication

In 1991 Martina and Claude Eckert decided to write down their story and experience of the Jasper-Pfaffenweiler partnership. With the help of Martha Rasche they consolidated all collected materials, like articles, letters, documents and pictures, into a large binder, supported by written text from Martha Rasche. Many photocopies of the binder have been handed out to interested people.

On August 3, 1996, the first regular column about Pfaffenweiler appeared in The Herald, the local newspaper. The column reports current events as well as historical and current facts about Pfaffenweiler and the surrounding area. Fred Smith, managing editor of The Herald, helped in starting this bi-weekly series.

Most information for the column is taken from the weekly Pfaffenweiler newsletter, is supplied by Pfaffenweiler news reporter Franz Hilger, or is taken out of various history and information books.

The Herald has been sent to Pfaffenweiler each week since January 1997. This began when Vic Knies, city councilman at large, approached Ed Rumbach, co-owner of The Herald, and asked for the newspaper's support in sending the paper regularly to keep residents of Pfaffenweiler current with Jasper's local events.

In the fall of 1997 a small group of the Jasper German Club saw the need to promote and maintain the German language in Dubois County. They created the monthly "Stammtisch," or "Table for the Regulars." It started out as part of the monthly German Club meetings, but soon turned into a small separate meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant in Jasper. The main purpose is to speak only German, but it also has become a forum for discussing Sister Cities projects. Marie Hendry, Bob Dilger, Matthias Hilger,



Celebrating Our Partnership



Darren Patterson, Jim Beachy, Norman Fuhrman and Mary Jo Meuser lead the monthly Stammtisch.

Out of a desire to preserve German as spoken in Dubois County, Patti Goepfrich joined in with the Stammtisch and has taken the initiative to videotape many Dubois County senior citizens talking in their old German dialects. This is documentation in progress.

The first Pfaffenweiler newsletter, S'Gmeiblaettle (community paper), was forwarded to Jasper by e-mail on January 23, 1998. Since then, technology has improved and the newsletter has been forwarded to Jasper weekly. The Rathaus (city hall) of Pfaffenweiler, with Buergermeister Fritz Gutsell as chief editor, sends the newsletter by e-mail at the same time it is sent to the printer. Diane Treyer and Harry Schumacher from the Rathaus are responsible for the weekly information pipeline. Each newsletter arrives every Thursday in Jasper, though it is not distributed in Pfaffenweiler until Friday morning.

After arriving in Jasper, the newsletter is distributed to 21 other individuals, mainly in the Jasper area, and to six former Pfaffenweiler residents who now live elsewhere in Germany.

Awards and Other Encouragement

In October of 1987 Sister Cities of Jasper received an award of merit and distinction from Gov. Robert D. Orr. The award cited Jasper's efforts to further the cause of international friendship and understanding between the citizens of Indiana and citizens of other states and nations and for developing understanding, economic, cultural and educational ties with Pfaffenweiler.

Claude Eckert served two one-year terms on the board of directors of the Indiana state chapter of Sister Cities. The Eckerts were delegates to the Sister Cities International Conference in July 1988.

Each year the student exchange program receives a grant from the German American Partnership Program. Sister Cities of Jasper and the Jasper German Club also have financially and otherwise encouraged the schools to continue the student exchange program.

In 1997, Pfaffenweiler Buergermeister Fritz Gutsell visited the first-ever German-American Sister Cities meeting in Frankfurt.

On Oct. 6, 1999, the first German Heritage Award was given to Mary Jo Meuser by the Jasper Partnership Commission, Sister Cities of Jasper and the Jasper German Club.

In 1999, Jasper mayoral assistant Lois Kuntz received a grant from the Indiana Humanities Council to travel to Pfaffenweiler with the Jasper contingent in June 2000 and compare notes with the Buergermeister's assistant there. The Herald's city editor, Martha Rasche, also received a grant from the Indiana Humanities Council to make the trip in order to write articles about the activities surrounding the 15th anniversary of the Jasper/Pfaffenweiler partnership.

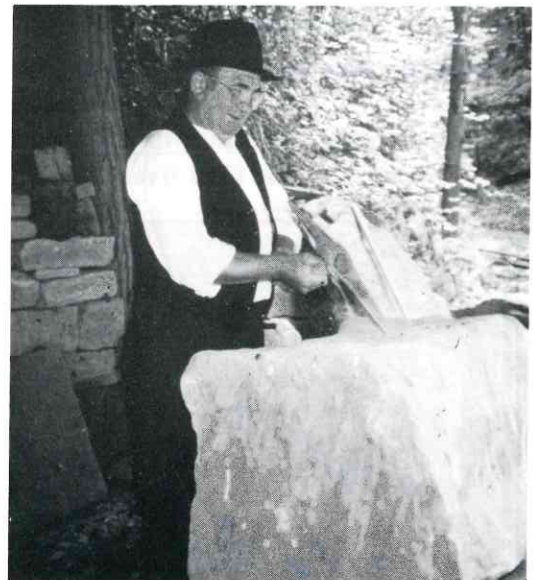
City Editor Martha Rasche from the Jasper Herald, receives a Grant from the Indiana Humanities Council to participate in the 15th Anniversary trip to Pfaffenweiler in June 2000, to give thorough media coverage of the events.

April 2000: Glenn Weil, student Advisor at the Jasper High School receives a Grant from the Indiana Humanities Council for creating a slide show from digital pictures to promote the student Exchange Program as well as the Partnership.

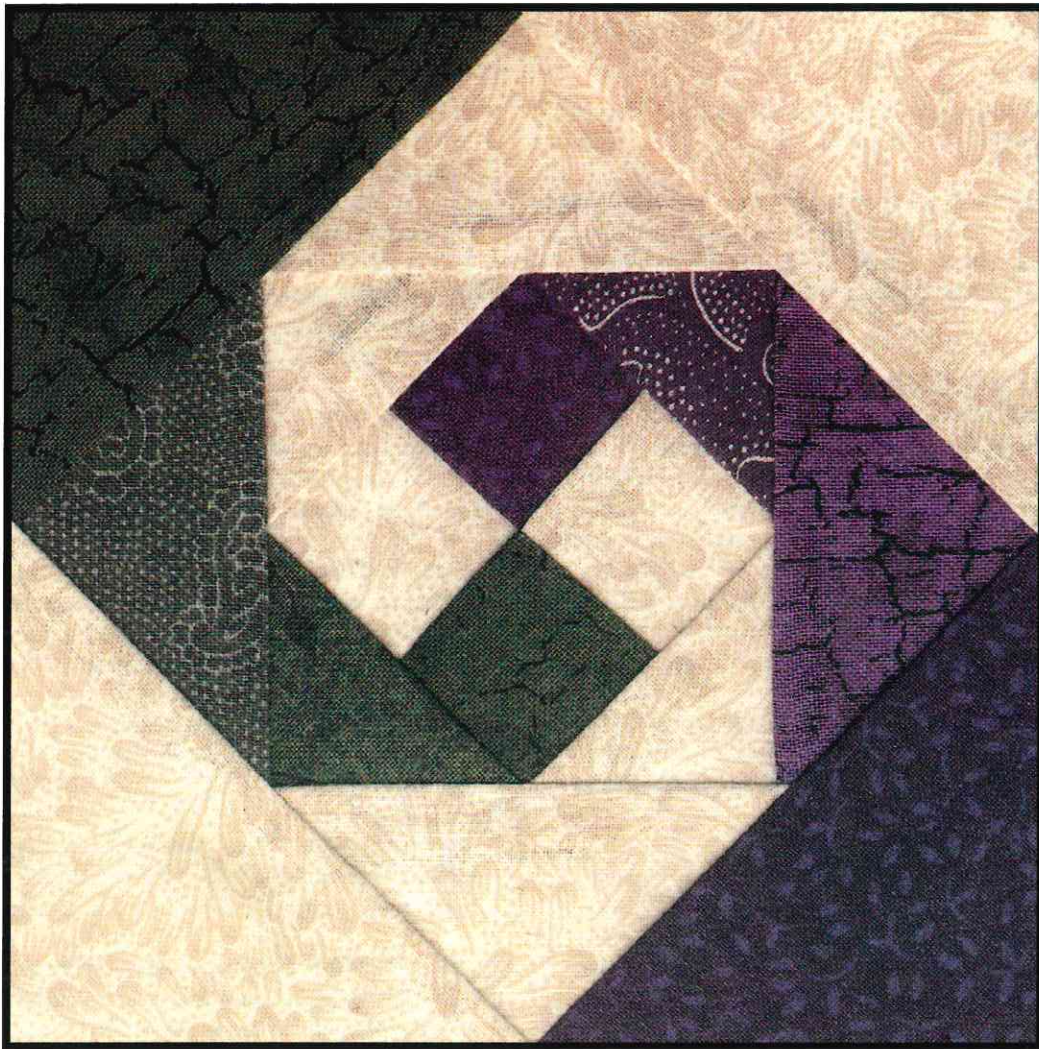
April 2000: Matthias Hilger receives a grant from the Indiana Humanities Council for organizing the 15th Anniversary trip to Pfaffenweiler.

April 2000: sister Cities of Jasper receives a Grant from the Indiana Humanities Council for writing the fifteen-year history book of the Jasper-Pfaffenweiler partnership.

April 2000: Stan Jochum receives a Grant from the Indiana Humanities Council to put together a partnership calendar, which will be produced in 2001.



Karl Hanser in Pfaffenweiler



*Snail Trail/Indiana Puzzle Quilt Pattern used on the quilt given as an anniversary gift to Pfaffenweiler in 2000.
Schneckenpfad/Indiana Puzzle Muster, das fuer das Jubilaeumsquilt fuer Pfaffenweiler in 2000 benutzt wurde.*

**Our special thanks go out to Claude and Martina Eckert for recording
the first five years of the Jasper — Pfaffenweiler Partnership.**

15th Anniversary Book Committee



*Bob Dilger
Martina and Claude Eckert
Patti Eckerle Goepfrich
Marie Hendry
Franz Hilger
Matthias Hilger
Gayle and Stan Jochum
Lois Kuntz
Mary Jo Meuser
Darren Patterson
Martha Rasche*

