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Rieman, Seated, And Stienner Back In Town

For Young Germans, An Odyssey Across America

Two young men from Germany have a much better picture of America after returning to Mooreville last week from a two-month, 18,000-mile drive through the country—the entire country.

Robert Stienner and Thomas Rieman, both from Erlangen, West Germany, began their tour of the United States June 22. They started from Mooreville for several reasons, the number one being that Stienner had "family" ties with the Aubrey Price family. Stienner stayed with the Prices and their two sons as an AFS student during the 1984-85 school year.

This spring Stienner returned with a hometown buddy Rieman to take part in a unique summer-long driving tour of America. The second reason for beginning in Mooreville was that the Prices volunteered their Buick station wagon to serve as transportation/mobile home during the trip.

Stienner and Rieman, both 20, returned to Mooreville Aug. 31, last week, before leaving town for the trip to New York and then back to Germany, both talked about what they learned, saw, enjoyed and endured about their journey through America.

After comparing mental notes, the young men, who begin 15-month army tours when they return to Germany, came up with the top three places on their trip itinerary.

The Everglades in Florida, New Orleans' French Quarter and San Francisco topped the list, but Stienner immediately added the Grand Canyon and Rieman mentioned Yellowstone, proving that picking the best stops from a two-month tour is a tough thing to do.

"The vegetation in the Everglades was amazing," Rieman, who made his first visit to the United States a very special one indeed, said. "It was just hard to believe."

He also mentioned that all the state parks they visited provided new glimpses of natural settings and beautiful scenery.

Stienner, while equally impressed by the natural creations in the western part of the state, stuck with the French Quarter and San Francisco as his top two picks.

"The old houses and buildings in the French Quarter were fantastic and San Francisco was just a beautiful city," Stienner said.

Both were impressed by all they saw, but both also had one complaint about their trip. Even when they liked the cities or the scenery around

them, they couldn't afford — time wise — to hang around too long.

"We averaged staying one day in each place we stopped," Stienner said. "Some places it was a little longer and sometimes it was only half a day. We had to do that because on a trip like this, if you stay in one place too long, you run out of time and don't get to see other places."

The only other problems during the excursion, not counting a few plane, car and hotel problems that came to be expected on a 60-day, 18,000-mile trip, were visits by police and a few bad dreams.

"We slept in the car and most of the time we'd spend the night at a rest stop or in a church parking lot," Stienner said. "A few times in the towns, the police told us to move on and find a rest area out of town."

But the dreams were worse. The two took turns driving and when one drove, the other tried to get some sleep on a mattress set up in the back of the car.

"It was terrible," Rieman said with a laugh. "You would be asleep, dreaming that you were still driving, and then you'd jump up thinking that you feel asleep while you were driving."

But even with the dreams, the trip was still fun and a learning experience for the two unusual tourists.

"I recommend it," Stienner said, "not just for Europeans who come here to visit, but for everyone."

And it really wasn't that expensive. Gas was by far their biggest expense and during the two-month trip they spent \$2,500 between them.

And while seeing all the great sites, cities and scenery was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, what they learned about the people in those places may have a longer-lasting impact.

Every Sunday, wherever they were, Stienner and Rieman went to church. Showing the wear and tear of weeks of constant traveling and, in many cases, carrying the aroma of grill-cooked meals featuring plenty of garlic, they were greeted as friends and always offered a least one invitation for a home-cooked Sunday dinner.

That may be a big part of the reason why the two young men put on five pounds each during the trip.

It's also why landmarks and famous cities will only be a part of the wonderful memories Stienner and Rieman keep about their journey.

Mrs. Graham, Bear Poplar Resident, Dies

Mrs. Barbara Jean Karrier Graham, 51-year-old resident of Bear Poplar, died Thursday night of last week at the Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte.

She was secretary to Dr. William Skeen in Mooreville.

A native of Rowan County, Mrs. Graham was born on Sept. 11, 1935, a daughter of Mrs. Katie Anderson Karrier of Mount Ulla and the late Roy W. Karrier.

Edna in the Rowan County Schools and Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, Mrs. Graham was a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Rowan County.

Surviving, in addition to the mother, are: the husband, Howard A. Graham; and one daughter, Mrs.

Fair View Methodist Church Plans Homecoming For Sunday

A homecoming celebration will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13, at Fair View United Methodist Church at Mount Mourne.

The church is located on N.C. 115, across the highway from Mount Mourne Elementary School.

Guest speaker for the 11 a.m. service will be a former pastor of the church, the Rev. Donald Fisher, who was pastor of the church from June 1977 until June 1982. He is currently pastor of Thrift United Methodist Church in Charlotte.

Immediately after the service, there will be a picnic lunch at the church.

Former members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

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North Carolina's Unemployment Rate Declines

North Carolina's unemployment rate is tied second lowest among the 11 largest states with New Jersey, Michigan, at 8.8 percent, had the highest unemployment rate in August.

The national unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) remained unchanged at 6.0 percent for August.

The U.S. Department of Labor figures for August show North Carolina's labor force at 3,308,000 employed with 3,165,000 employed and 143,000 unemployed. In July, these figures were 3,322,000, 3,171,000 and 151,000 respectively.

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