

Bavarians visit the wide-open Spaces of Iowa

By KARLA ELLIS

Staff Writer

ESTHERVILLE - This year the Estherville Rotary Club took part in Sponsoring an international exchange program which allows young Professionals to see how their job is done in other countries. Five visitors from Germany attended Thursday's Rotary meeting at the VFW in Estherville.

Rolf Waller, Dominik Blanckenstein, Dr. Christian Strasser and Dr. Judith Staber and their leader Horst Dänzer from Bavaria in Southern Germany are participating in this year's exchange.

The Estherville club has sponsored other groups in the past. Several years ago they hosted a contingent from Australia.

The German group will spend three days in Estherville as part of a four and a half week Iowa trip. They have already visited Arnes, Waterloo, Webster City and other towns.

Not used to the openness of the plains, they were looking forward to Decorah to see the "mountains."

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horizon, Iowa just keeps going, there is nothing to stop it," said Rolf Waller the manager of a Dukes estates in Straubing.

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"Even com would help," said Dominik Blanckenstein an IT consultant for a U.S. firm in Munich.

The group did get the opportunity to participate with this years planting season. Each one got the chance to plant for about 10 minutes for a farmer in Webster City.

After the meeting, they were headed to the lakes to go fishing. Other highlight of their trip thus far includes a first-time visit to a golf course while in Waterloo. Golf is too expensive in Germany.

"We put new holes in the course. It started

as a 18-hole course, it was a 27 by the time we were done," said Strasser, from Augsburg.

They also went turkey hunting.

"We saw two turkeys..." said Waller, "then they saw us. We didn't get a shot."

They have also investigated how their Jobs are done here in the U.S.

Strasser a lawyer in Germany enjoyed sitting in on a trial. The American judiciary differs from the German as Germany does not have a jury System.

He also got the opportunity to see an American jail which is much tougher than a German one.

Dr. Judith Staber, a veterinarian from Erding, agreed, "It was surprising to see the prisoners in the county jumpsuits and in handcuffs, they just don't do that at home."

Dr. Staber visited the National Laboratories on Animal Diseases in Ames and also visited farms. She noticed many differences between Germany and Iowa. "Animals in Germany



Photo by Karla Ellis

Horst Dänzer of Germany presents a lederhosen t-shirt to Dr. Lisa Dreeszen for the Estherville Rotary Club.