

# LIFE

THE NEWS-SUN

*The* Evening Star

HERALD-REPUBLICAN

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CARLA RHO OF TURIN, ITALY

I like this picture because it shows that we bravely defied the weather (at the Maple Wood Nature Center in rural LaGrange County) to learn all

about the making of maple syrup. And we are walking in a disciplined line - not so usual for a group of Italians!

# Italian Perspective

CIAO visitors say staying in homes

# \\ CIAO visitors say staying in homes was highlight of northeast Indiana visit

BY GRACE HOUSHOLDER

graceh@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE —

What do you get when you put 12 vacationing Italians in 10 Hoosier homes for nine days?

A lot of laughter. And the launching of friendships.

When the Italians left on April 14 almost everyone said "see you later" because most of the Hoosiers who opened their homes to the Italians will exchange roles with their guests. In June 2008 the Hoosiers will travel to Turin and Ivrea in northern Italy.

The grassroots exchange is called CIAO — Creating Indiana/Italy Adventure Opportunities. In Italian, "ciao" means "hello," "good-bye" or "welcome."

Cathy Linsenmayer, an American who has lived in Italy for many years, and I came up with the idea of CIAO. We are both long-time volunteers with AFS, an international student/teacher exchange organization. Cathy has a summer home on Sylvan Lake. Most — but not all — of the Italians were fluent in English. None of the Hoosier hosts spoke Italian.

This year AFS, which was founded by Italian ambulance drivers who wanted to prevent the carnage of World War II from ever happening again, is celebrating its 60th anniversary. AFS has grown to include more than 50 countries.

On these pages are photos Italians Carla Rho and Anna Trompetto shared with us when we told them we wanted to portray "Northeast Indiana through Italian eyes."

Comments from some of the Italians about their CIAO experience (some were translated from the Italian by Cathy Linsenmayer):

**Patricia Proschwitz**, attorney, who stayed with Jim and Julia Nixon of Kendallville: "There were many funny and amusing moments. The first one that comes to mind

is Maple Wood Nature Center, where we probably violated Mother Nature (the snow, of course) with the confusion our group made. It was like being on a school trip with a wonderfully nice teacher, which is an indescribable feeling at 50 years old... It (the CIAO experience) was fantastic! Just one problem: we are afraid that we will never again be able to get used to the idea of travelling the world as simple tourists without having the spectacular "inside view" that this experience provided us!"

**Gloria Defilippi**, bank employee, and **Roberto Marietta**, factory employee, who stayed with Mike Post and Michael Nelaborige in Kendallville: "Gloria loved her day with the children in both schools visited, and Roberto appreciated so much the time he spent with David Sanders (at Parker Hannifin in Albion)! Both feel we learned a lot during our working day! Everywhere we could feel we were truly welcomed!"

**Deepthi Martinet**, 21, a landscape architecture student who stayed with Elizabeth Brady in Ligonier: "The best moment of the trip was when I met my host family, Elizabeth and Alexis. Alexis was so nice and cute.. Every morning she would come to wake me up, and the evening before going to bed she would come and jump on the bed and then give me a good-night kiss before going to sleep. But the absolute best moment was when she came to me and said 'I love you.'"

**GianLorenzo Rossetti**, 14, student, who stayed with the Fred and Cathie Kreigh family of Kendallville: His favorite day was the Monday he spent with Kendallville retired Judge Robert Probst at the ACD Museum in Auburn and the day he spent at East Noble



CARLA RHO OF TURIN, ITALY

The day we spent with an Amish family was memorable. We were able to get in touch with their simple yet full life and to

get an understanding of their unique culture.

## Things Hoosiers learned from CIAO

1. Squirrels are extremely appealing and adorable when viewed through Italian eyes. (In Italy wildlife is rare. The only major wildlife they have are the dangerous and detested wild pigs.)
2. The word "oggi" means "today" in Italian. Not orgy. That caused confusion and quite a bit of laughter when an Italian told her host family about what happened at the dentist's "oggi!"
3. You can have a lot of fun even when the weather is bad. In the snow one happy Italian accidentally said "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Easter!"
4. Italians use umbrellas in the snow.
5. Until you start looking for unique things for foreign guests to do you don't realize and appreciate all your area has to offer.
6. Ten years ago Italy looked at the U.S. as leaders in recycling. Today Italian homes are more involved with recycling than most U.S. households.
7. The steel industry is our nation's largest recycler. We learned this during our tour of Steel Dynamics, Inc. in Auburn.
8. There are many more churches here than in Italy.
9. Niccolo commented continually to his host "Mom" Barb Morrow of Auburn (who had to shuttle him for CIAO activities) on how Americans need to develop mass transit. He wondered why there was no bus running between Auburn and Kendallville.
10. Laughter transcends all languages. CIAO host Julia Nixon of Kendallville says, "We never felt quite so witty as we did with Mario and Patricia. They laughed often and were so good-natured all the time! We feel we have made lifelong friends!"



Bison in the cold at a rural LaGrange County farm. More photos can be seen by going to [www.fwdailynews.com](http://www.fwdailynews.com) and clicking on the multimedia section and also at Anna Trompetto's blog at <http://ciaointerculturaafs.spaces.live.com>

# CIAO

FROM PAGE C1  
High School with Scott Kreigh.

Niccolò Rossetti, 21, university student, who stayed with the Dr. Doug and Barb Morrow family of Auburn: "I really enjoyed all my stay in Indiana and (it's difficult to choose) the best day. But that day might be Monday. I went to the Auburn car museum with my brother Gian and Carla. There we had a great time. The volunteers showed us how they work both in the museum library, where they make research about the Auburn Duesenberg history, and in the garage where they repair the cars to show to the visitors or to sell to get money for the museum itself. They also drove us by an Auburn 1937 to a fastfood for lunch, that was amazing!

"I couldn't get a better family for me! I enjoyed all the time in Auburn talking about the U.S. and Europe, our history, our problems, our society, or going out with the boys. They all really took care of me, making me feel at home. I had to smile the evening before we went to Fort Wayne (nice city!) when Barb (Morrow), knowing I could go to the Lincoln Museum, sat in front of me with an encyclopedia and asked, 'Well... Niccolò, what do you know about U.S. history? Do you know Lincoln?' So I had an interesting lesson about the saviour of America and the day after it was easy for me to introduce the museum to the Italians that cannot understand English well!

"We didn't see many things geographically, but really saw the world from a different point of view. Quoting M. Proust, 'The real voyage of discovery lies not in seeing new landscapes but in having new eyes.'"

Daniela Termine, public prison social worker, hosted by Michelle Bradford of Kendallville: "I enjoyed everything so much... The first impression was that everything was bigger than our standard in Italy — the cars, the intersections, the houses, drinking glasses, portions served on your plate, but above all the easy chairs. Splendid chairs, large, comfortable, reclinable, with a mechanism that raises a foot rest. Every house has one, and I tried all of them, absolutely all of them! Now my dream is to own one to put in my house, but I'm afraid that I would have to import it from the U.S.A. ...

(On the work/exchange day Daniela visited the Noble County Jail.) "I met American colleagues that work with probation. I encountered subtle differences in purpose of the penal system: Italy stresses re-

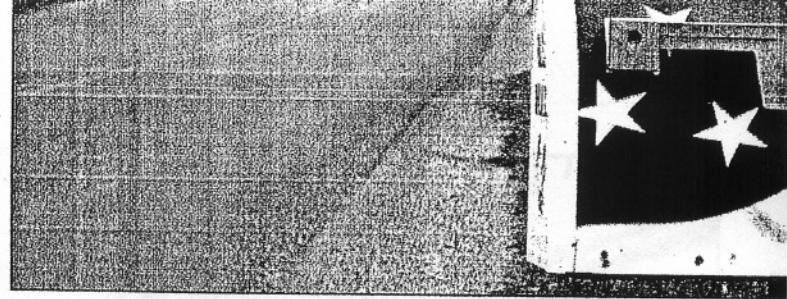
*"The real voyage of discovery lies not in seeing new landscapes but in having new eyes."*

M. Proust  
Author

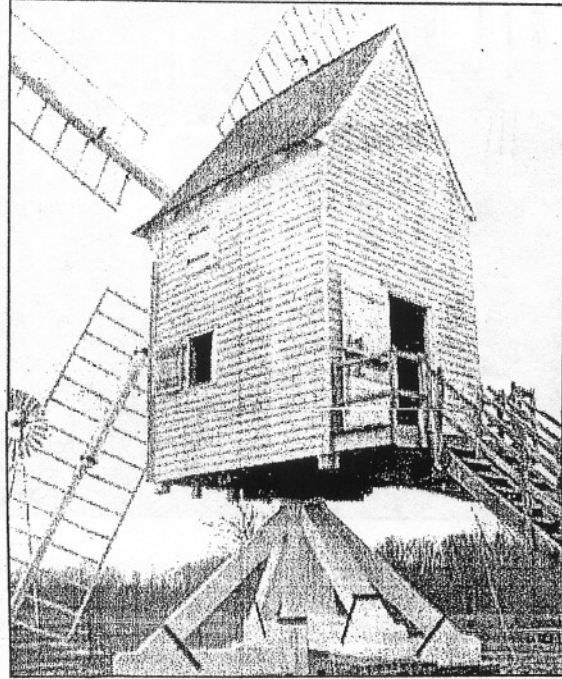
education; the U.S.A. is more of a punitive system. In Italy, besides the guards, social workers and teachers, you find volunteers, cultural mediators, priests, and various associations. These people help and support the prisoners through individual meetings and various organized activities in the prison as well as projects to re-insert them back into regular life through internships in public offices or factories (these projects have to be approved by the court).

"In Italy, the prison uniform was abolished many years ago... However, the daily problems, as the sheriff and head guard so patiently and graciously explained to us, seem to be the same. If the personnel respect the prisoners, they are also more respectful. The new synthetic drugs that cause irreversible brain damage, the techniques used by some dangerous prisoners to make knives with whatever they find are the same. I was favorably surprised at the cleanliness of the prison, the perfect organization and the use of technology which is completely absent in Italy. It would be wonderful if the administration of the respective penitentiaries would promote professional exchanges, which are always useful and profitable in a profession that is as difficult as ours."

Irene Fascetto Sigillo, dentist, who stayed with Neal and Carla Hart of Kendallville: "I was pleasantly surprised by the hospitality, willingness and enthusiasm of the host families. I had never been hosted by a family I didn't previously know so it was a new experience for me and I never imagined they would offer me so much! Unfortunately, not speaking English (this was the only negative aspect of the trip!) I was not able to exchange opinions as I would have liked. The funniest thing that happened to me was that since I didn't use the towels offered to me by the Hart family (I had brought my own towel-robe) they thought I was 'air drying' — the misunderstanding was cleared up by Cathy (Linsenmayer)! Thanks to everyone for this fantastic experience and I



This picture stands as a symbol of one aspect of American culture that we were at



ANNA TROMPETTO OF NREIA, ITALY

The Mid-America Windmill Museum, Kendallville, was the first tourist stop for the CIAO Italians.

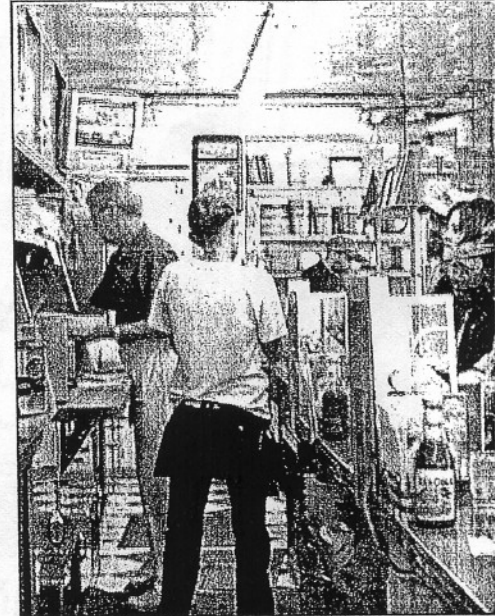


Scene at the McCray welcome party for the

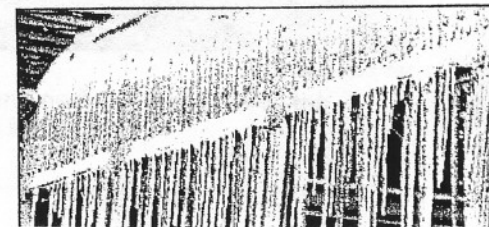
hope to have the chance to participate in another similar one. In the meantime, I promise to study English!"

Cathy Linsenmayer: "I would like to thank everyone involved with CIAO... thanks to all of you, the nine days could not have gone better! The first time I realized that things were going well was when, coming back from Easter at Notre Dame, I realized that I had not heard one complaint from anyone! And when you are travelling with a group, that is a minor miracle.

"But I really felt that it had been a meaningful and successful experience for everyone when I saw how difficult it was for everyone to say goodbye to each other (there were tears in many eyes) the Saturday morning we had to get on the bus and go back to Chicago to catch our plane. I think the most satisfying thing about the whole experience was seeing how well people got to know each other — and how close they became — in the short time we were there. That was really what we had hoped to achieve — better understanding of our two cultures and the creation of relationships that have the possibility of becoming lasting friendships."



How could I miss the opportunity of going back to good 'ol "Happy Days"? When I saw this diner in Fort Wayne I just couldn't resist! Cour sippi



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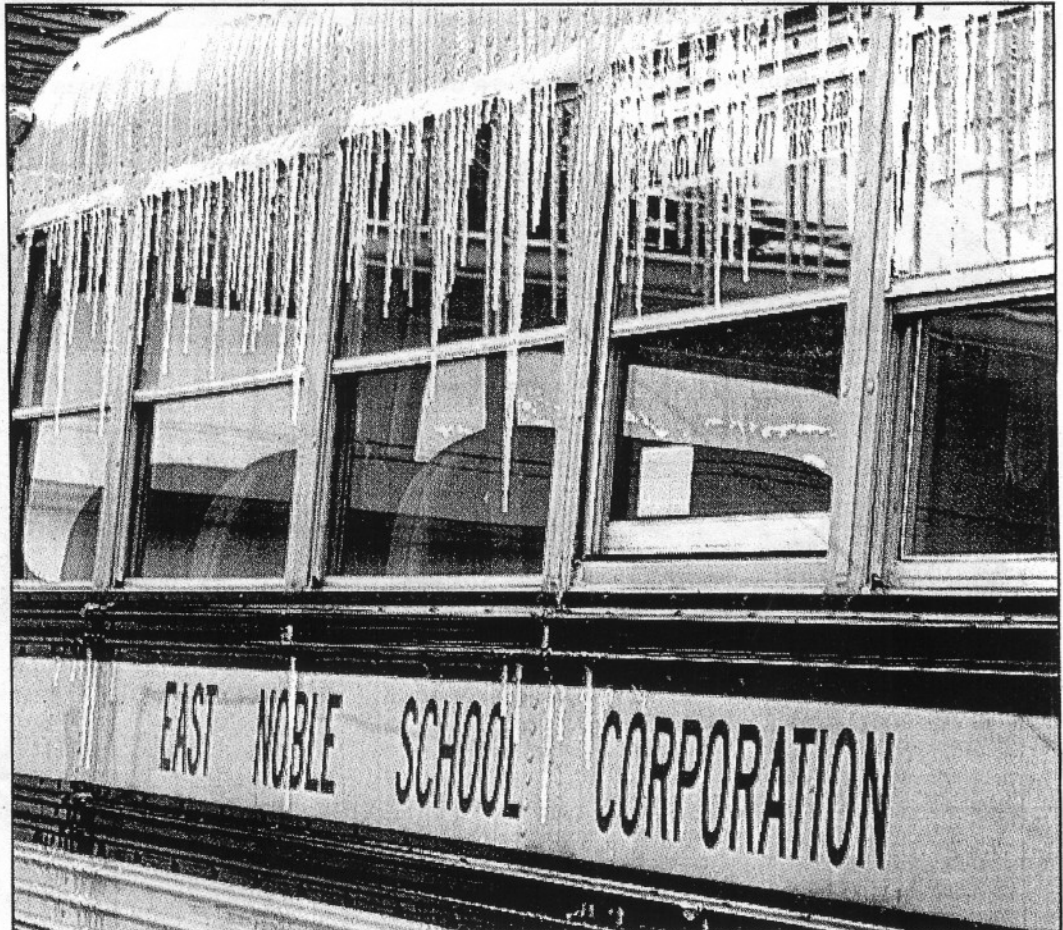
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**resist and skipped the visit to the Courthouse to sit and mix with the locals sipping a nice hot cup of coffee.**



CARLA RHO OF TURIN, ITALY

**The coldest April in 25 years — that's what we got! But, no end of warmth in the hearts of our hosts. And our laughter filled**

**the air and perhaps melted even the sternest icicles.**



*Two little words  
can keep you out of  
so much trouble.*

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you remembered.

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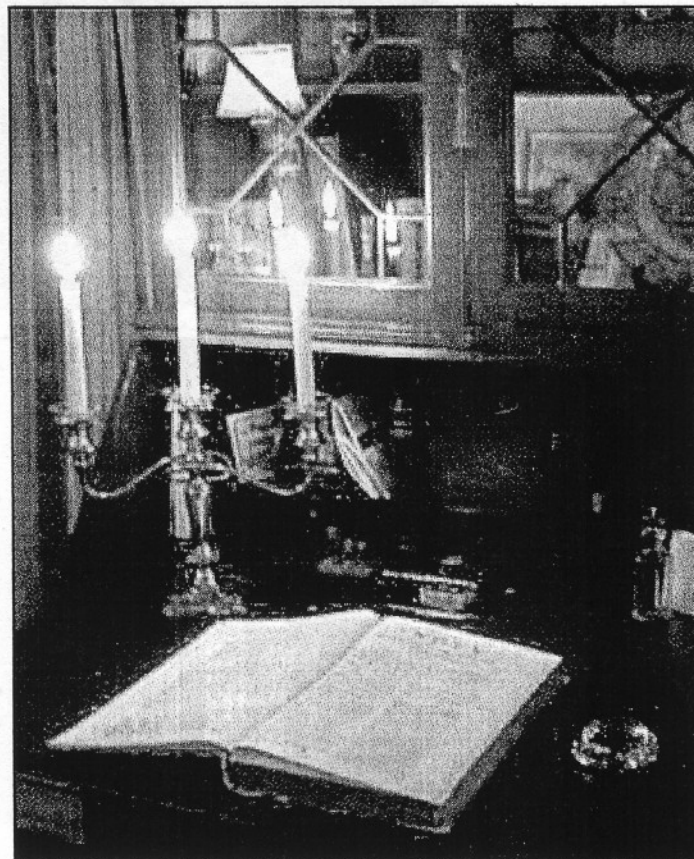
CARLA RHO OF TURIN, ITALY

This picture stands as a symbol of one aspect of American culture that we were able to notice in Indiana: patriotism.



ANNA TROMPETTO OF IVREA, ITALY

The Mid-America Windmill Museum, Kendallville, was the first tourist stop for the CIAO Italians.



ANNA TROMPETTO OF IVREA, ITALY

Scene at the McCray Mansion in Kendallville, where a welcome party for the Italians was held.



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