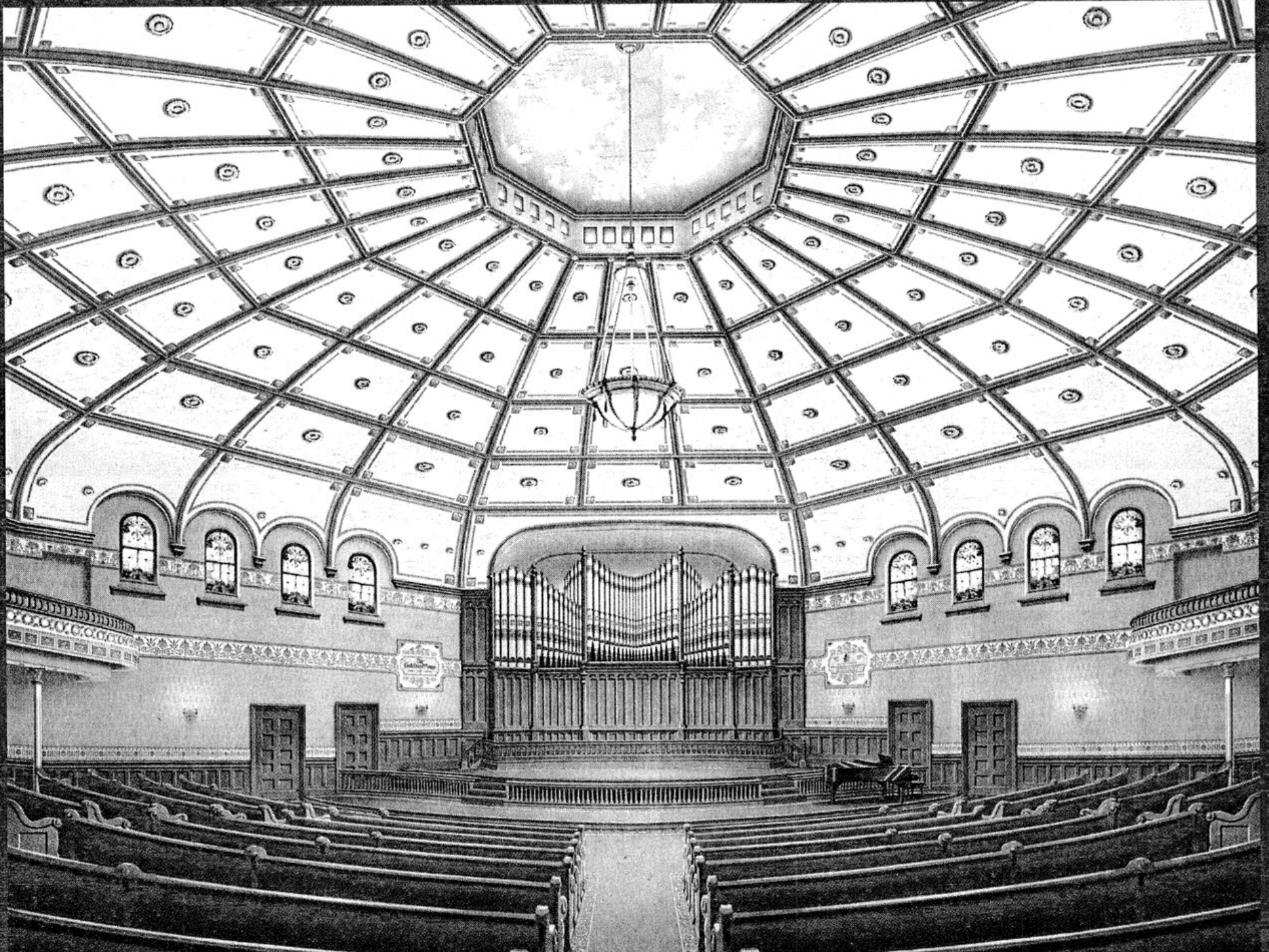


HOME-DELIVERED TO
11 NEIGHBORHOODS
AS THEIR OFFICIAL
NEIGHBORHOOD
NEWSLETTER

Urban Times

The downtown lowdown on Indy's historic neighborhoods

MAY
2010



A Landmark reborn

The Old Centrum to become center of state's preservation effort
- and a cultural mecca as well / page 13

Image by Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc.

THE ARTFUL TREAD

Tires to return for Spring Gallery Walk / 37



OUR JUST DESSERTS

In search of Downtown's best treats / 15

the Lockerbie Letter

News from historic Lockerbie Square

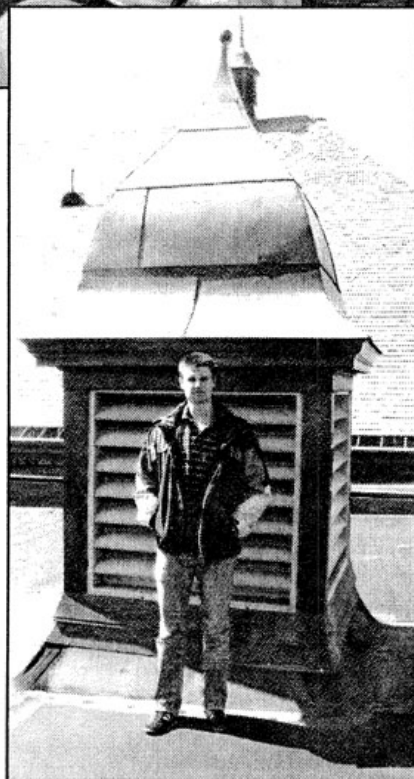
Exchange student 'made friends for life'

TWO AND A HALF months in Lockerbie Square dispelled some stereotypes for one 21-year-old German electrical engineering student.

"At the beginning of my stay I was told that Indiana is referred to as one of the Fly-Over-States," said Jonas Traphoener of Mannheim, Germany. "This thought was proved wrong completely. I got to know the Hoosier hospitality and made friends for life. I am very thankful and grateful that I got to know so many loving and caring people. This makes me want to come back for sure, when I have the time again in the future."

Jonas said the time he spent working and relaxing in Lockerbie Square, from January to mid-March, seemed to pass quickly.

Jonas is in his fourth semester at a university of cooperative education, the *Duale Hochschule* in Mannheim. This means he works for a company during semester vacations. In return, the company pays him a monthly wage for the entire three years of his education. Jonas's German employer is MVV Energie AG, which is the local utility supplier in Mannheim. Before coming to the United States, his work assignments at MVV involved writing an instructional manual for a photovoltaic power plant, doing a navigation recalcu-



▲ Jonas (left) with IUPUI's Claudia Grossman and fellow German exchange students Theresa Reuter and Michael Pawlowicz.

◀ Jonas was able to get a rooftop view from the historic Athenaeum, as part of his work with nearby Keramida Environmental, Inc.

lation program for the maintenance department at MVV and (as they say in the USA) other tasks as assigned.

MVV Energie AG continued its sponsorship of Jonas and another student from the *Duale Hochschule* while they were in Indianapolis. Michael Pawlowicz came from Mannheim with Jonas and stayed with Michael Vernon, a former participant in the exchange, in Fall Creek Place. He worked for Citizens Energy Group at the Perry K

Please turn to JONAS, page 48 ►

■ EXCHANGE

Continued from page 28

Steam Plant. Both internships were arranged by Claudia Grossmann, German program director at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis and a Woodruff Place resident. She has coordinated internships for IUPUI students in Germany and German students in Indiana for the past 20 years. The program operates as an exchange. This summer, MVV will again host exchange interns from IUPUI, for the third year in a row.

Keramida, an environmental engineering firm located in Lockerbie Square at 401 North College St., provided the two-month internship for Jonas. The internship focused on sustainability and Jonas's primary assignment was an energy audit on the historic Athenaeum, the former *Das Deutsche Haus*. Jonas said he was very grateful that Keramida provided him with such an interesting and big assignment. "I am especially interested in looking further into the green business engineering and therefore I appreciated the task Keramida gave me," he said.

Jonas spent a lot of time at the Athenaeum — with his job, at the YMCA working out after work, and in the restaurant and bar with friends. "Jim Gould from the Athenaeum especially showed me what Hoosier hospitality means," he said. "I had a lot of fun and valuable experiences during my stay here. I learned not only about the architecture of the Athenaeum and the efficiency, but also a lot about its history and the history of the German immigrants coming to Indianapolis. I never realized it, but that story makes me really proud to be a German." Jim also talked Jonas into walking in the St. Patrick's Day Parade for the Athenaeum, a unique experience for a German exchange student.

During his stay, Jonas lived with Jim and Marjorie Kienle, long-time Lockerbie residents. The Kienles had previously served as a home family for a program with the IUPUI School of Social Work. The participants of that program were graduate social workers with at least five years working experience. "When our children were young," Marjorie said, "we could not afford to take them around the world, so we brought the world to them."

They previously have hosted participants from England (twice), France, Austria, Romania, Poland, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, and Hong Kong. Marjorie said they became a host family for the IUPUI program in 1981 when she was president of Lockerbie Square People's Club. The program had contacted her to try to find a Lockerbie host family, so that the participant could walk to work at what was then the Hispanic Center in the old St Joseph rectory on North Street. She was again president of Lockerbie Square Peoples

Club in 2009 when she was contacted to find a host family who could provide a home in Lockerbie Square for Jonas while he worked at Keramida.

Jonas fit right into the Kienle family very easily. He had been an exchange student in Maine when he was a teen-ager and had recently traveled in the United States with his family. "Being not too much younger than our son, Andy, it was like having two sons for a while," Jim said. Andy, who owns a home in the Cottage Home neighborhood, was able to take Jonas to venues and events that were more geared to their ages. Andy regularly brews beer with a friend, and Jonas particularly enjoyed brewing with them on a couple occasions.

Perhaps the most interesting experience was watching American football with Jim and Andy, which always proved to be a rousing and loud experience. Said Jonas, "Having dinner with my host family every day and them telling me very interesting stories about the region and the politics of the country and them being so caring and protective over me as if I was their own son made me feel at home right from the beginning."

Jonas said he enjoyed his stay in Lockerbie Square and "would like to thank everybody so much for making me have this incredible experience. I grew a lot during my time in 'Indy' and am very eager to come back to this place." ■