

English student explores suburbia

By JUDITH BERNE

A four-week sampling of life in West Bloomfield has one British lad convinced he will return to the United States — for college and perhaps to live.

Bruce Bittin, 12½, has spent the last month visiting his West Bloomfield aunt and uncle, Bruce and Carol Keidan, and cousins Edward, 9, Josh, 8, and Benjamin, 6.

When he returns to Leeds, a city of half a million people about 240 miles north of London, he will take with him red suede sneakers (he calls them pumps), a blue jean vest ("Everyone will go mad for it"), slogan T-shirts for his sisters and bubblegum for his friends.

Bruce's visit has been particularly enjoyable for Mrs. Keidan, who grew up in the same house in which her nephew now lives before she left Leeds for the United States more than 15 years ago.

"It's fun to see him react in many of the same ways I did when I first came here," Mrs. Keidan said. But were struck how the warm, sunny weather, large houses on ample lots and the food were so different than England.

LEEDS IS cold and damp, even in summer, so Bruce can't get enough of wearing T-shirts and shorts and swimming at the Orchard Valley Swim and Racquet Club on Beverly Crest where the Keidans are members. "A club like that would be a waste in Leeds," he reports, since there are so few days of good weather. Summer vacation from school is limited to six weeks because "there's no point in giving them 12 weeks of rotten weather," his aunt laughs.

Although he lives in a fashionable section of Leeds, the houses there are dwarfed by the ones Bruce sees in West Bloomfield. Attached homes are the rule, most have just one bathroom and dishwashers are unusual. He can't break the habit of closing the door to each room he enters to contain the heat for the English cold is penetrating and insulation is poor.

Mrs. Keidan acknowledges she becomes "a little bit of the ugly American" when she returns for a visit, "be-



Edward Keidan of West Bloomfield plots another adventure with his cousin Bruce Bittin (right) who is visiting Michigan this summer. Bruce, a native of Britain, has found life here in the states quite different than back home. (Staff photo by Charlie Kidd)

cause everything is so small." And, she says, "I'm always cold even when I go back in August."

Big Macs, thick steaks and strawberries have quickly become Bruce's favorite foods. "Your food is fantastic," he maintains. The short English growing season limits locally grown fruit and vegetables. "I don't remember ever eating cantaloupe until I came here," Mrs. Keidan says.

BRUCE NAMED Cedar Point, Bonaventure Roller Rink in Farmington Hills and the Waterford Wave Pool as highlights of his trip. His major complaint: not enough contact with birds (girls).

"I'd hoped to go roller skating (dating)," he said, judging that even from his limited experience "American girls look better than English girls."

Living within a city where the drug store (chemist in England) is around

the corner and public transportation is readily available, he is used to more freedom than his West Bloomfield counterparts.

He and his friends bike to nearby parks and take buses to the movies and to young peoples' discos. He and three friends camped out for a week last summer in an English recreation area with no adult supervision.

Soccer is his favorite sport and the young Englishman, a good athlete,

takes on the whole neighborhood of American youngsters and comes out the winner, according to Mrs. Keidan. He also high jumps, plays rugby and runs cross country for his English school.

The Keidans' were rained out of a trip to show Bruce the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor which he would like to attend. They hope to get another opportunity if he returns as planned next summer.

Paintings shown in Illinois

Marilyn Spencer of Bloomfield Hills is currently exhibiting some of her paintings in a national invitational exhibit at the Springfield Art Association, Springfield, Ill.

Titled "Women in Art," the show, which runs through July 27, includes works by 143 artists — paintings, drawings, jewelry, photography, pottery, prints, sculpture and textiles. The

pieces are on loan from the artists as well as museums and galleries. Among the museum loans are works by Kathie Kollwitz, Helen Frankenthaler, Louise Nevelson and Isabel Bishop.

Mrs. Spencer recently had a one-woman show at Mullaly Gallery and is a regular participant in local and regional exhibits.

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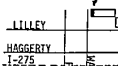
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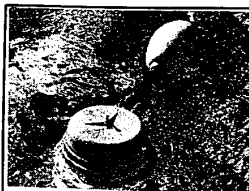
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