



The Fish Family of Farmington Hills went (left) and his brother, Nick, try to catch their first fish while Richard and Cheryl watch the splash of the big one that got away.



## Founders' festivity

Residents from communities surrounding Farmington joined local citizens in Founders' Festival activities this week as Kim Reeves of Dearborn Heights went for a couple of laps around the pony ride corral at the World Wide Shopping Center on Grand River.

Staff photos  
by  
Harry Mauthe

# Foreign visitor contemplates world politics

By YVONNE DEYLAN

It is the Soviet communist bloc which is still keeping Germany divided, says a West German Luftwaffe officer who is staying in Farmington as part of the international exchange program with the Civil Air Patrol.

The official answer is no, we don't want to be a divided country. But the Russians, Americans, British and French agreed this more than us. After all, you were the winners of the war, says Lt. Ulrich Tversnick, a career officer in the West German Air Force.

"Does the United States really want a united Germany, knowing that our industrial power will be greater," he asks.

The Germans have had offers from the Communists to reunite, but only under the condition of socialism, he says.

But we know what freedom and democracy are and we won't give them up," he says.

There are about one million soldiers on each side of the wall, and this leaves Germany in a balanced position. If there is a reunification, Germany will become unbalanced, according to Tversnick, a 28-year-old Munich resident.

Germany has attacked Europe twice and other governments are afraid of this happening again, so they keep us under control, he says.

He denies that a united Germany would attempt another bid at world war.

"WE'VE BEEN EDUCATED DEMOCRATICALLY and know how expensive it is to have freedom. We've brutally learned the lesson of peace in Germany and we're cured," says Tversnick.

Germany has missed peace twice and



ULRICH TVERSNICK

the people don't want any more. World War Two was a result of a non-controlled group of people who felt war was necessary. The Germans couldn't stop it. The United States learned this lesson in Vietnam except it was democratic enough to turn back, he says.

Presently, the Soviet communist bloc has 15 times the number of tanks than the west, seven times more planes and three times more soldiers, according to Tversnick.

This keeps us wondering a little bit. If they're so peaceful as they claim, one half of this strength would be enough to defend themselves, he says.

The Russians are still proclaiming

world-wide communism. Radio Moscow still trades against imperialism and capitalism.

If you read Russian books, there are fine distinctions between legal and non-legal wars. Russian invasions in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 were considered legal because they protected the people from becoming imperialized," he says.

Tversnick claims the political idea of communism and the military strength are still worrying the Germans today. In fact, Germany is so worried about it, it's only second to the United States in paying money for the defense of the western world, he adds.

"The United States is too far away from Russia to know the Russian people," he says.

Not enough Americans really know what is going on in Europe. When I read American newspapers, I discover what is being said about political events in Europe is disastrous," he says.

He points out that a doctor murdered in Southfield gets more coverage than Italy almost voting itself a communist government.

If I asked an American to name the candidates in the German election, I bet he couldn't. Yet, I can tell you about Jimmy Carter and his peasant farm," says Tversnick.

It is difficult for Americans to understand the Russians since they know so little about themselves, he muses.

Russian policies since 1917 have been consistent. They have never changed their intentions and always know what they want to do—spread Russian influence wherever they could," he says.

RUSSIA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY in the world that has won territory after 1917, according to Tversnick.

"After every war, they get more land and they call westerners imperialists," he says.

The Germans live too close to the Russians for comfort, he says. Eighty per cent of Germany was destroyed after the war and the United States reconstructed and helped Germany, he says.

The Russians also helped East Germany—they helped carry away the things that weren't destroyed. Tversnick claims that East Germany must work harder but their gross output is about one-fifth of the West Germans.

"They have problems over problems. Highly industrialized as they are, everything is still pre-planned, over-planned or under-planned and one day it will all collapse," he says.

The Russians have sacked East Germany and get more from the country than

they give, he claims. You start to say this about the United States. Everything that is bought is paid for, correctly.

The individual Russian is a fine man and the soldier is doing his job as well as I am. The problem is the ideology," he says.

If the Russians knew that even the last addition north was ready to stand up and fight for democracy, they would never attack, he says.

Tversnick feels that the western world is doing the right thing in being guarded with the Russians, but he thinks that a united Europe would be more effective.

We won't see this in the next 20 years because we are still too deep in our own traditions. All of us—Germans as well as the rest of Europe.

All of these countries want a united Europe but they are unwilling to give up anything for it, he says.

Americans can't imagine how hard the Eastern European countries are struggling for their freedom. There are approx-

imately 50,000 Germans killed every year trying to get to the West. The prisons in Eastern Europe are filled with political prisoners," says Tversnick.

Small revolutions show that these countries have been forced to adapt to the regime, but even the youngsters of these countries know they're not free, he says.

The East Germans are really aware of this because they have opportunities to watch West German TV and listen to radio.

When Tversnick travels into East Germany, the people are forbidden to speak to him. If they do, they must report it to the police, he says.

The American people returning from World War Two failed to give Americans a real view of the war. They were all heroes and this was seen as a fine thing.

Our freedom in Europe depends on the U.S. and anyone who says differently should be shut up. Even a united Europe isn't as strong as the U.S. Europe depends on a country that really doesn't understand its problems. This is dangerous.

## ...others look at lighter side

Everyone in this country wants to show us everything. That's the reaction of nine German teenagers who are on a whirlwind tour of Michigan in three short weeks.

Presently, they are spending a week in the City of Farmington, hosted by five city families. William Corliss, who is a lieutenant colonel in the Civil Air Patrol, and his wife, Jessie, are leading the host contingent.

The teenagers are members of the West German Civil Air Patrol. Escorting them is German Air Force Lt. Ulrich Tversnick.

Every year a contingent from a different country visit the Farmington area in the international air cadet exchange.

We requested that we get them to visit us on this week so they can enjoy the Farmington Founders' Festival, said Mrs. Corliss.

The teenagers' initial reaction to the United States is that American are very friendly, but the girls are too shy. All of the three 16-18 year olds are hearty eaters

and they believe that American parakeets are the best.

But they do believe that Americans have too much sugar in their food.

American television, they agree is much more entertaining than the German counterpart. Germany, they say, has far less variety and channels and the programs are more politically oriented.

The cartoon program "The Flintstones" was a favorite among the teenagers who came from nine cities in the German Republic.

Lack of transportation worries the boys since they aren't used to using so much gasoline to get from one place to another.

West Germany, they say, depends much more on mass transportation than does the United States.

Besides the Corliss family, other host families from Farmington are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Haller, 2281 Brookdale, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Hall, 3428 Cortland, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Spooner, 3461 Arundel, and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Street, 3023 Lamar.

In the German contingent are Arno Beck-

er, Gerd Engel, Hans-Jörg Gekunst, Richard Muck, Georg Pirkel, Reiner Schmidt, Wolfgang Skoch, Rudiger Spahr and Norbert Ziemann.

The cadets arrived in Michigan on July 18 and will be leaving the United States on August 1.

During their visit they have met Gov. William Milliken and traveled to Frankfort to enjoy America's reputation of German style cuisine.

They spent some time in Ohio where they visited Kitty Hawk, were greeted by Secretary of the Air Force Thomas Reed and listened to a speech by Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater.

While in Michigan they have visited the General Motors proving grounds in Milford and Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum.

They also enjoyed trips to Bobo and Cranbrook.

For the remainder of their stay the German youth will enjoy the Founders' Festival. So if you happen to run into the group give them a cheer. "Wie geht's."

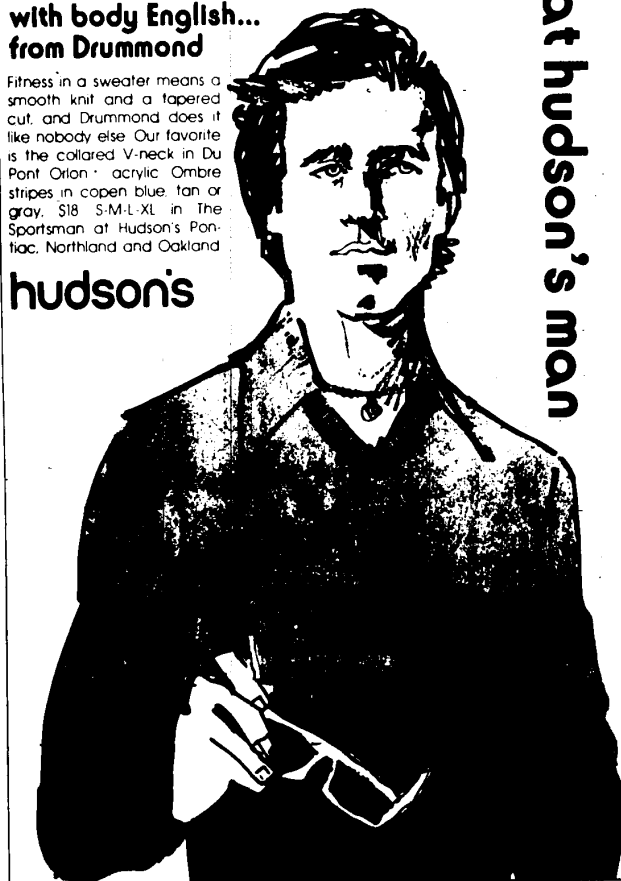
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The contingent of young fliers from Germany take time out to watch the Olympics at Mr. and Mrs. Bill Corliss' home. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)