

# Trades Wales for Farmington

## Teacher, students learn together

By LYNN ORR

Shamrocks and leprechauns are familiar to American children, who quickly learn that St. Patrick is the

patron saint of Ireland. But who is St. David? Wooddale Elementary School students know, thanks to a visit last week from a Welsh exchange teacher.

Under the United Kingdom-U.S.A. Ambassadors in Education program, Phil Lewis is spreading the word about St. David, the patron saint of Wales, and the country's national emblem, the red dragon.

And he's learning as well as teaching during his trip, especially because he's living with an Farmington family. The Patrick Stacers are hosting Lewis during his three-week stay. Stacer's brother Dick teaches at Wooddale School.

"WE KEEP a welcome in the hill-side," Lewis' Welsh students sang to the Wooddale fourth-graders via a cassette tape recording. And the students' saw slides of their Welsh counterparts enjoying St. David's Day. They also learned about "orientteering," a popular sport in Wales.

"The student is given a compass heading and they have to find their way from tree to tree," Lewis explained. It sounds a lot easier than it looks, since one student has to direct another using just the compass.

Slides of field trips showed the Welsh youngsters visiting a 60-year-old castle, which drew a collective sigh from the Wooddale students.

But the students were just as interested in the everyday life of a Welsh student.

"How many days of gym do you have?" asked Doug Hart.

"Every day," responded Lewis with a smile. "And we play soccer against other schools."

Lewis teaches at Hendrefelin Primary School in Swansea, a port city with a population of 180,000.

"Much of the city was destroyed

during the war, but it's now almost completely rebuilt," he told the students while showing aerial pictures of Swansea.

Like Wooddale, the Welsh school is in the suburbs, and Lewis said the schools are alike in many ways.

"You have more room and more staff, but the children are very similar," he says. "We don't have a media center, though. If I could take that home with me, I would."

Very few Welsh teachers have college degrees, he said. The teachers train for three years and get a certificate, and once they have a job, it's their's for life.

"We have a one-year probation, but the schools can't lay-off teachers," he explains. That fact has both its good and bad qualities, he says.

"If you have an ineffective teacher, there's not much you can do," he explains. But it also keeps the staff at a steady number.

Being an exchange teacher for three weeks gives him the chance to talk to American teachers and professors, and exchange teaching methods and materials, he says.

This is his second visit to the U.S. He was a sailing instructor at a summer camp in New York in 1970. But this trip is more educational, he says.

"It's not like being a tourist. When you live with a family, you learn more about Americans."

He'll be visiting Windsor, Ont., as well as other schools in the area, and will attend a seminar at the Renaissance Center hosted by Wayne State University, which organized the exchange teacher program.



Phil Lewis uses a map of Wales to teach Wooddale Elementary students about his native country. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Tax limit push courts backers

A statewide citizens' organization, which seeks to limit taxation in Michigan through a constitutional amendment, has carried its drive to Oakland County.

At a press conference last week, the Southfield based Taxpayers for Tax Limitation, named 15 community chairman heading the petition drive in towns throughout Oakland County. Among those named as local chairman were Farmington Hills Councilmember Jody Soronen and Southfield resident Greg Gollaher.

Leading the Oakland County drive will be Bloomfield Hills lawyer William Hampton.

Making the announcement was Richard Headlee, president of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., Farmington Hills, and chairman of the Taxpayers United.

Headlee outlined the effort to obtain 260,000 signatures in the current petition drive to qualify the proposed amendment for a statewide popular vote on Nov. 7.

HEADLEE hammered at the main themes of the taxpayers' effort, state spending is out of control, taxes are rising 2% times faster than personal income and driving jobs out of Michigan, other forms of restraint haven't worked and only a "people based" constitutional amendment can bring fiscal "good housekeeping to Lansing and the state's local governments."

Supporting his argument, he pointed out that private production jobs in Michigan have declined by five per cent during the past 10 years, while during the same period, jobs on the state payroll have risen by 50 per cent.

Headlee said his group's tax limitation proposal would link rises in state revenues to the growth of personal income of Michigan residents. As the economy improved, the state would have more dollars to work with, but could never enlarge its relative share of personal income and create hard-

ships on those with fixed incomes.

He called the proposed amendment a "reasonable and flexible device" for controlling runaway taxes, which would permit "reasonable governmental growth."

The amendment, he said, contains adequate provisions for handling real emergencies through a declaration by the governor and concurrence by two-thirds of the Michigan legislature.

LOCAL property taxes would be held under strict voter control, Headlee said. Revenue increases exceeding the established rate for inflation would have to be accommodated by a roll-back of tax rates so that yield would remain stable.

Improvements to existing properties and new commercial expansion he said, would continue to provide increased revenues for local government. But the current tax base could not be "further assaulted" without voter approval.

Bonded indebtedness and any increase in tax rates beyond the constitutional limit would have to be approved by the voters, Headlee said, contending that the proposed amendment would put control of taxation into the hands of the taxpayers for the first time in history.

He said approval of the amendment would have a beneficial effect on the economic climate of Michigan, thereby aiding in the creation of jobs. It would stabilize the future growth of government at "supportable" levels, without curbing any necessary services.

Headlee predicted victory for the tax limitation effort, citing a state poll commissioned by Taxpayers United which showed that 60 per cent of Michigan's registered voters approve of the idea.

"What is needed now is a lot of hard work by that 60 per cent of the people to see that the required 260,000 signatures are obtained by June."

## Job hunters find niche in library

By DENISE MOLL

Spring has arrived. A time for a new beginning or time to reactivate old interests, and the Farmington Community Library has much to offer to get started.

For teens, warm weather often means it's time to start pounding the pavement in search of that elusive summer job. This year, before you start, get some advice at a program sponsored by the Young Adult department. Mrs. Barbara Kabeonell, director of placement at the Farmington Hills branch, at 7:30 p.m. April 10, on what and how to look for a job. Advice on

filling out applications and interviews will be offered by a representative from the training department of McDonald's Corp.

For adults, the bi-weekly book discussion continues at the Farmington branch library at 10 a.m. Thursdays. Lilian Hellman's "An Unfinished Woman," will be the topic of the April 20 discussion.

The Farmington Hills Library has begun to receive issues of a host of periodicals. Topics range from the arts to business and from gifted children to international affairs.

BROWSING through the collection may stir a new interest. The Farm-

ington Hills branch also has the Farmington Observer on microfilm, dating back from 1888. This new addition should be of great help to genealogists and those interested in the history of Farmington.

The Oakland County Subregional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in the lower level of the Farmington Hills branch will be honoring friends and patrons at an open house, April 9.

The 850 users of the Talking Book Service and interested persons are invited to a buffet reception celebrating the opening of their new facilities which will include an introduction to the circulating collection of sculpture and a demonstration of the Visualtek

electronic reading aid.

It's National Library Week. Children are invited to celebrate with us at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 8, in the Farmington Hills branch and at 2 p.m. in the Farmington branch. We'll have a screening of the award-winning film, "Rookie of the Year," and announce the winners of our Bookmark Contest.

Other children's activities for the month of April include a "Welcome Spring" open program for pre-schoolers at the Farmington branch at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 14 and for school-agers, the films "Dear Kurt," and "Helen Keller and Her Teacher," at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22 in the Farmington Hills branch.

## THE INSIDE \* ANGLE

"NEXT TIME you see Farmington Hills Police Capt. RUSS CONWAY tooling around town in his unmarked car, give a listen for the sounds of Bobby Goldsboro. Seems the car's tape deck is the permanent home of a recording of the singer's greatest hits. Be sure to give a wave to the Captain if you're a Goldsboro fan. After all, it's the little things that you do that make me want to be near to you.

"FROM THE 'I only had one drink, honest' department comes the tale of area bistros' reaction to President JIMMY CARTER's disapproval of three martini lunches. According to some Hills lunchgoers, the latest offering at a businessman's lunch is a martini served in a glass large enough to hold the ingredients for three drinks. Here's looking at you, kid.

"AFTER ONE of those conceptions don't be surprised to spot a snow-owl in the ravine off Orchard Lake between Ten and Eleven Mile. It's the gift of a loving hubby to his owl-collecting wife.

"PUT THIS IN your wish book. Farmington Hills, usually pretty flat except for a few inadvertent curves in the roads, is still hoping to get a real rise out of itself someday. Says a city administrator about the lack of hills in the Hills, "we're working on it. There's a live volcano under the Hills and we're waiting."

"MOVES ON the part of Farmington Hills City Council to back the Equal Rights Amendment by boycotting states which haven't passed the amendment may produce some interesting results if the council is successful. A woman employee was scheduled to attend a conference on women and city finance in Chicago. The potential hitch in plans? Illinois has yet to ratify the ERA.

"HARRISON HIGH School 11th grade student ANDREW PAPP is our winner of the week. Andrew, son of MR. AND MRS. LEO PAPP, 25865 Castlereigh Drive, Farmington Hills, has won a first place in the senior division for physics at the Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit. He also is one of two grand prize winners. His project, an electron microscope, will be entered in the International World Series of science fairs at Anaheim, Calif. Sharing pride in this accomplishment is Andrew's science teacher WAYNE SHALLA.

"GET UP ON your toes. The Michigan Ballet Theater will be auditioning dancers for membership in their company. Dancers, male and female, must be 12 years old or older. Girls are required to have pointe shoes. A few scholarships for males are available. Auditions will be at 2 p.m., April 9, at 31315 Thirteen Mile, Farmington Hills.

"AN EASTER vacation treat awaits children at the Farmington Community libraries. The film "Dr. Doolittle," starring Rex Harrison will be shown from 2:45-3 p.m. Tuesday at the Hills branch and from 2:45-3 p.m. Wednesday at the City branch. Elementary students are invited.

"NEED A JOB? The young adult department of the Farmington Community Library is offering a program on job hunting skills for youth. The program will be at the Farmington Hills branch, 3237 Twelve Mile, at 7:30 p.m. April 10. Featured speakers will be Barbara Kabeonell, director of placement at Mercy College. Also, a speaker from the McDonald's Corp. will speak on how to fill out applications. Although adults are welcome to this free program, the focus will be on the part-time or summer job applicant.

"TIM MEIER will be on his way to Colombia and Venezuela soon thanks to the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. Meier, son of MR. AND MRS. THOMAS MEIER, 2932 Meadowview, Farmington Hills, won a \$7,000 grant to study orchids in their natural environment in those two South American countries. Watson fellows are selected for their scientific ability, a clinical field and for their potential for leadership within that field. Meier is a student at Kalamazoo College.

"THE RED CROSS is looking for blood donors. Farmington area donors are trek on over to Farmington High School, 32900 Shiloh, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 6. Later in the month, blood donations can be given at St. Francis Knights of Columbus Hall, 21900 Middlebelt, Farmington.

"VOLUNTEERS are being sought by the Red Cross. Students, 14 and older may choose summer assignments from a variety of Red Cross volunteer programs, including work in hospitals; convalescent, rehabilitation and medical centers; health department, clinics; Head Start; Easter Seal Camp; bloodmobile units; and special blood needs calling. Apply at the Red Cross South Oakland Regional Office, 25900 Greenfield, Oak Park. Beginning April 7, staff members will be available between 2:45-3:30 p.m. and continuing on consecutive Fridays at the same time through June 15.

"LEFT-HANDERS, ATTENTION. Yet another word of encouragement to that very special minority. The liver of a left-handed person is on the left side of the body. Sounds logical. By the way, if you've got any left-handed trivia, be sure to drop us a note.

Talking of dropping us a note, how about it. Just write to P.O. BOX 69, SOUTHFIELD 48037.

### Students figure in math test

About 800 of south-eastern Michigan's best junior high and middle school math students will compete in Eastern Michigan University's 1978 Mathematics Contest on Saturday, April 28.

The annual math contest is open to students in grades 6-9, who are

enrolled in general math-type courses.

The students will take the first part of a math test in their classrooms. Regional finalists will be chosen from among the students who achieve the best scores on the first part of the test; then they will compete with their top scorers peers at the EMU competition.

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