

# Their anniversary gift is Greece

By ROSEMARIE L'AMATO

Four years ago, Ginger and Bob Sayed decided they wanted to do something special for their parents on their 25th wedding anniversary.

That ruled out the silver anniversary dish on butter lamb, and other gifts common to the silver anniversary.

Instead, the girls decided to save their money and help fulfill one of their parents' oldest dreams—a vacation in Greece.

And on Tuesday, May 22, Bob and Peggy Sayed of Birmingham will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary in Greece, thanks to the decision made four years ago by their then 20- and 17-year-old daughters.

The trip didn't come as a complete surprise to the Sayeds because their daughters told them about their plans last year, on their 24th wedding anniversary.

"It was a surprise then," Peggy Sayed recalled Thursday. "The kids had a party for us and they put together

about 40 photos with pictures and drawings of people and places in Greece.

"The photos were all connected with string and as we followed them through the house, the last one had a giant drawing of an airplane ticket to Greece with our names on it."

"It's fantastic. We're thrilled and really looking forward to it."

Mrs. Sayed, a local artist, said she had no idea of the girls' plans prior to the party last year because they started a secret bank account especially for the trip.

Since the girls started saving for the trip, Ginger, now 21, graduated from Michigan State University and two years ago married attorney Michael Blake.

Mrs. Blake now works for Ford Motor, and sister Joy, a 21-year-old junior at Michigan State University, works as a legislative aide to state Rep. William Bryant, R-Greece Pointe.

"We started saving from our summer jobs while we were in school,"

Mrs. Blake said. "I was working as a book-binder and my car had a health food store and later as a book-binder."

Mrs. Blake said the girls had decided one day that the trip would be something different to give their parents for their anniversary.

They had always wanted to go there and had talked about it with friends who had gone on cruises there," Mrs. Blake said. "So that's how we decided to do it."

Mrs. Sayed said husband Bob, travels often in his work with the Burroughs International division, but had never been to Greece.

"We both have wanted to go there to see the art and culture," Mrs. Sayed added. "We had heard from friends how lovely the country was and how nice the people were that we started talking about going, but we never did."

Mrs. Sayed said her daughters and son-in-law got the dream vacation rolling and friends have picked up on the

idea and heightened their interest in the trip.

While traveling with another couple from our church, First Methodist, Mrs. Sayed said, "So last week Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clark and Mr. and Mrs. George Schaefer had a big Greek dinner for us and the John Matthews."

Keeping in the spirit, Mrs. Sayed said, the parents of her son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Michael Blake, took the Sayeds out to dinner in a Greek restaurant.

"It's really been fantastic, everyone's been so nice," Mrs. Sayed said. The kids—Joy, Ginger and Michael—have really been super. They got us the round-trip airline tickets, and all we had to do was decide on the things we wanted to do when we get there."

Besides looking for new ideas for her art, Mrs. Sayed said the next priority will be a cruise through the Greek islands.

"That's really what we've always wanted to do," Mrs. Sayed said.



Bob and Peggy Sayed prepare to leave for their trip to Greece. Their children helped them fulfill a long dream as a 25th wedding anniversary present.

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