

Monday, July 7, 1980

Interpreters needed

Congregation moves on faith preparing to welcome refugees

By LORAIN McCLISH

The congregation of North Farmington Baptist Church is on the countdown now waiting the arrival of Long Cha Pan and his wife La Chan. The Cambodian refugees will be arriving here any time within the next two to six weeks. The unknown time of arrival is in keeping with a host of unknowns about the couple who are being sponsored by the church for their resettlement in Michigan.

"At this point, all we have is faith," said Bill Devlin, speaking for the congregation.

"We have a picture of them, but it is a Xerox of a Xerox," he said.

"We know the husband has had four years of education, but we don't know what that means. We know they are Buddhists but we're not too sure what, if any, cultural problems that might cause."

"We know they both have farming backgrounds but that isn't going to help them in Farmington."

"We know they speak Lao and Khmer. We sure would be happy to find someone in the community who could help us out with what is inevitably going to be a communication problem. They don't even have an alphabet we can identify with."

THE PANS, both 29 years old, were residents of the Aranyaprathet Refugee Camp in Thailand, forced out under Communist pressure to the Philippines and are scheduled to fly direct from there to Detroit.

"There are about one million people in that camp with about a dozen trying to sort them out, so nobody gets to know anybody very well and so there's not much information to pass on," Devlin said.

"Their own culture is a peaceful one, yet all of those people have known war all of their lives," said Marion Tanton who is serving on one of the five committees church members have formed

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MARION TANTON



BILL DEVLIN

to help the Pans with housing, finances, language, transportation and employment.

"What they will need most of all, and immediately, is friendship, fellowship," Mrs. Tanton said, "and that means someone who can speak their language."

Rev. Stan Nichols, pastor of the 100-member church at 32500 13 Mile Road, will host the couple in his home for their first two-week stay here.

Meanwhile, the church committees are preparing to have all bases covered with possible employment, housing, language classes.

"ALL OF OUR decisions seem to be inter-dependent on one another," Devlin said.

"We have to get them a house or an apartment near a bus line fairly close to where they will work but we don't know where they will work, or what kind of work they can do or what they will want to do."

"It seems as though all of this will have to come at once, but only after we get to know them," he said.

"It's all a little scary, this tampering with someone else's lives," Mrs. Tanton said. "And it must be terrifying for them. They can't have the slightest

idea of what to expect when they get here."

Devlin added, "And we really don't know what they are going to need, either. They might have a mouth full of teeth that need filling, a good possibility since we know for a fact that there is no such thing as a toothbrush on a Cambodian farm."

One other thing the congregation knows for a fact is that those who have gone before them in sponsoring refugees have found the experience to be as beneficial for them as it has been for the newcomers.

"WE'RE FINDING that out already," Mrs. Tanton said. "Some of our members who were a little hesitant about taking on this responsibility at first are now the ones who are offering the most."

"Our committees are working well and closely to one another. We have a new common cause."

From the onset, the young people of the church were most enthusiastic about the sponsorship, which was proposed by Devlin, through his liaison, Lutheran Social Services.

"They gave the best breakfast I've ever eaten and raised the first \$500 to get the Pans started here," he said.

The goal is to find a minimum wage job for one or both of the Pans and assist them to become self-sufficient within three to six months.

"But first we need interpreters, anyone who can speak their language," Mrs. Tanton said.

"We'd like to hear from anyone who has suggestions or can help us with the language, language classes, housing or employment," Devlin said.

Devlin will take calls at 661-1595, and so will Harlan MacDowell, a committee chairman, at 553-4498.

Kids have their own special day July 22

Several Farmington organizations have gotten together to organize, promote and manage the first annual 'Kid's Day' during Farmington Founders Festival Days. The date is Tuesday, July 22.

The Kid's Day committee is made up from the staffs of Adults for Kids, Inc., the Farmington Community Center, the Farmington Community Libraries, Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation, Farmington Youth Assistance and Farmington YMCA. They are supported by donations from a number of Farmington area businesses, clubs and organizations.

The fun starts at 9:30 a.m. in Farmington City Park on Shiawassee and Power roads with hot air balloon rides, a moonwalk, a sport mobile, clowns, skill contests and puppet shows.

Kids are invited to skate in the roller-skating mobile, or try their hand in the electronic game wagon.

A helium balloon will be launched, loaded with messages. A nature mobile will be on the grounds. A roller-skating slalom contest will be held. Kids can view an air rescue show, ride ponies

and see a Karate demonstration.

Free movies begin at 10:30 a.m. in Farmington Community Library on Liberty Street.

"MOST OF WHAT we have lined up will be free of charge," said Denise Albrecht, a children's librarian. "Those that require a fee will be a small fee because of the donations we've gotten. Families can bring their own picnic lunch, if they choose, but snack foods will be available for sale," she said.

Farmington Community Center's executive director Betty Paine said the center's grounds will be available for supper picnicking.

"Bring your own blanket and watch the Family Players in our outdoor amphitheater," she said.

Show time is 6 p.m. when the Family Players of West Bloomfield take the stage to present an excerpt from "Bells on Your Toes," the company's latest production, as well as excerpts from several other productions.

Show time for all special events to run in Farmington City Park will be listed in Community Calendar.

Stavroula Peterson takes youth award

Stavroula Peterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Peterson of Farmington Hills, was given the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church Youth Award at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday.

The award is given for outstanding growth and development in Christian character.

Miss Peterson is president of the Junior Greek Orthodox Youth of American Chapter of the Farmington Hills church. Along with other young people in the parish, the teenager operated several booths during the Greek Glendi this spring.

She is a member of the graduating class of 1980 at Harrison High School and has won a four-year scholarship to Lawrence Institute of Technology where she will study business administration. Her summer will be spent visiting relatives in Greece.



STAVROULA PETERSON

Players offer summer bonus to add to festival activities

Farmington Players have wrapped up another successful season and now offer a summer theater production of Christopher Fry's "The Lady's Not for Burning."

The play is a bonus for theater-goers, added to the regular season's offerings during Founders Festival activities, set to open Friday, July 25, in The Players Barn on 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

"The Lady's Not for Burning" is a richly entertaining spoof of witch hunts set in 15th century England. A cast consisting of veteran stage actors and equally talented newcomers will perform this unique play.

HEADING THE CAST as Jennet Jourdameyne, the lady in concern, is Dawn Walker, an English actress who with her accent lends authenticity to her role of an intelligent young woman caught up in the middle of an olden day witch hunt.

Larry Noves plays Thomas Mendip, a discharged soldier trying very hard to be put to death for a crime which he admits he committed.

Brooks Crankshaw plays the orphaned clerk, Richard, who bears up with the craziness being put to him from every side.

Bonnie Harrower takes the role of Alison Elliot, a young girl on the threshold of being married to either Nicholas Devise or his brother Humphrey. Devise is played by Mike Protzeak; his brother played by Mark Honeyman. Neither brother would mind a chance to kill the other to win Miss Elliot's hand in marriage.

Margaret Devise, the brothers' mother is played by Hope Nahstoll, who is also directing the summer play.

Shakespearean actor Thomas Dougall plays the role of the justice, Edward Tappercorn, and Dave McCabe takes double duty with the role of the chaplain and the rag-and-bone man, Matthew Skippes.

John Hollingsworth lends his talents to the role of Hebbel Tyson, the mayor.

PLAY DATES are Friday through Sunday, July 25-27 and Friday and Saturday, Aug. 1-2.

Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Sunday or 8:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Tickets are \$3 each and will be held by calling the Players Box Office, 477-1066, but there are no reserved seats. Seating is on a first-come-first-served basis.

OLHSA asks for support

The 15th anniversary of the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act and the beginning of the war on poverty is being recognized this summer by Oakland Living Human Service Agency (OLHSA) with activities that culminate the week of Aug. 10.

Edward P. Revis, executive director for OLHSA said, "We are sending out letters to 54 units of government in Oakland County and 21 in Livingston County requesting passage of a resolution of support."

"This resolution acknowledges the agency's role as planner, program developer and operator for the poor over the past 15 years. It asks that each community recognize that these programs have benefited their residents."

OLHSA, formerly Oakland County Commission on Economic Opportunity, has grown from a \$1,135,467 program serving Oakland County to a two-county \$10,449,574 agency offering 35 programs.

Early Neighborhood Youth Corps employment programs for low-income youth have mushroomed into the CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) legislation which serves all ages of low-income unemployed and underemployed persons.

Senior citizen programs, which were one of the agency's first efforts, now constitute 22.3 percent of the 1980 budget.

Head Start is still being run through OLHSA, serving about 1,200 children in Oakland County through 23 school districts.

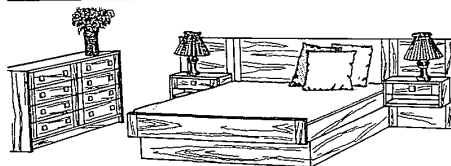
Revis said, "These programs and many like them are needed even more today than in the 60's when they were created. The challenge of the 80's is in achieving full economic and social potential when we are faced with soaring inflation, high interest rates and mounting unemployment."

K of C gets \$7,000

Farmington area residents who bought Tootle Rolls from members of St. Francis Council Knights of Columbus donated a total of \$7,000 to aid the area's retarded citizens. State-wide Knights of Columbus collected more than \$665,000 this year in its annual drive with each council distributing money collected, as the local council, in its own community.

Money gifts from the St. Francis Council were given to St. Clare Parish's Special Religious Education Program; Greater Farmington Association for Retarded Citizens; Farmington Training Center; Fair Haven Summer Camp for the Retarded; Northwest Community Association for Retarded Citizens; and Our Lady of Providence School for the Retarded.

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