

# Irish visitors swap tales on what's best in America

By Jean Adamczak  
staff writer

A group of 21 boys and three schoolteachers from Belfast, Northern Ireland, recently visited the Farmington area to take a vacation from violence.

"Belfast is a violent city," said biology teacher Patrick McCann. "Although many of these boys haven't experienced it firsthand, they still must deal with violence every day in some aspect or another."

"The contrast over here is very emphatic — there is a much more relaxed atmosphere here in America."

The group, from St. Patrick's College in Belfast, (equivalent to an American prep school) were guests at the Farmington Hills home of Nripen and Maureen Nandi.

For all but one it was a first visit to America. Harris McDonald had been here before to visit his sister, Maureen Nandi.

In fact, it was the Nandi's generous

hospitality which encouraged the group to come to Farmington.

"My brother wrote and suggested the group come here and I said 'well sure and why not?' Nandi said her voice heavy with Irish brogue. Nandi and her husband moved to Farmington Hills from Belfast nine years ago, but most of her family is still there.

"THEY'RE REALLY been no trouble at all," Nandi said while cooking breakfast for her guests.

"It's a little hectic getting meals and all," she said surveying her cluttered kitchen, "but they've behaved really well."

Such school trips are an annual event at St. Patrick's, but usually last only 6 or 7 days, McCann said.

"We thought we'd try something different this year, so we came to America. We figured as long as we were this far we might as well stay on awhile," he said. The excursions are open to any students who can pay their way. In this case, the boys had been planning and saving for over a year, McDonald said.

"They beg, stole or borrowed from grandparents and other relatives," he said with a laugh.

According to classics teacher Pascal McCaffery, the tours are mainly educational enabling the boys to experience and learn as much as possible.

The boys are learning first-hand how Americans live in harmony with each other, McCaffery said.

"These boys come from a Catholic school, and we have received much help from many Protestants on this trip," he said.

"It gives the boys a chance to see people living without religious bigotry or prejudice."

The trip to America is a unique experience for the boys, many of whom may never get back here again, McDonald said.

"ONCE THEY'VE gotten the taste of life here they will probably want to come back," he added.

"I'd love to come back here someday to live," Steve Grant, 16, said.

"Everyone is so friendly toward each other. People we don't even know come up to us and ask us where we're from and talk to us."

Niala Dorrian, 12, liked the "really big" shopping centers and the skyscrapers of downtown Detroit.

"We don't have things like that back in Ireland," he said, adding that he would also like to come back here and live.

During its visit, the group was treated to a tour of the Ford Motor Co. Greenfield Village, Detroit Science Center, Niagara Falls and Cedar Point.

But to most of the boys the highlight of their stay here was attending a Tiger baseball game.

"The baseball match was very different — very exciting. I really liked it," Grant said. "I will be sorry to leave here when the time comes."

Another facet of American life the boys are especially interested in is Music Television.

"That TV station has never been turned off since they walked in the door," Nandi said, nodding toward the living room where the boys were gathered around the TV.

Before heading back to Ireland, the group will stop in Washington, D.C. for three days and also Staten Island. They will leave for Ireland from Boston on July 18.

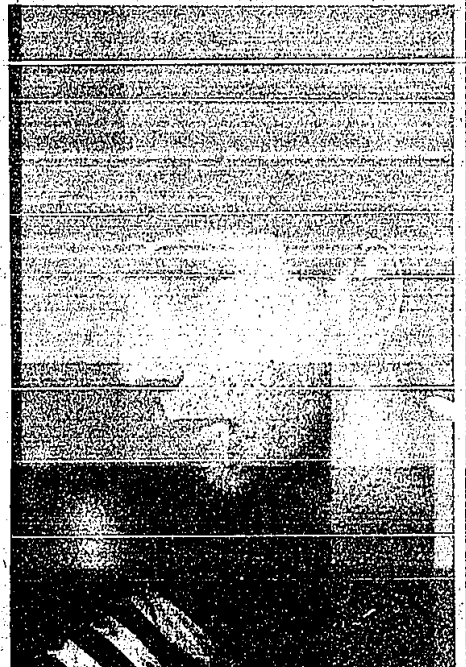
Back in Ireland the boys will be on summer vacation where many will spend their time playing soccer and "messing about."



Niala Dorrian



Students from St. Patrick's School in Belfast, Northern Ireland, take a moment to pose for a group photo taken by their hostess Maureen Nandi at her home in Farmington Hills.



Steve Grant (above) says one of the highlights during his stay in Farmington Hills was watching his first "baseball match" at Tiger Stadium. Preparing meals can get a little hectic when one is cooking for 24 people, but Maureen Nandi (right) says she enjoys cooking for her Irish guests.



Staff photos by Randy Bors

## memory lane

Memories, memories... have we got the memories. And we'd like to share them with you. Using local newspaper files, we're dishing up generous slices of life in the Farmington community from 40, 30, 20 and 10 years ago.

### JULY 13, 1944 —

AUTOS SOON will be parked parallel to the curb — instead of at an angle to it — on the east side of Farmington Road, south of Grand River, as a result of a recent vote by the Farmington City Commission.

TRACE CONROY, a Farmington merchant, was appointed city commissioner at a recent meeting of the commission. He filled the unexpired term of Max Hulett, who had resigned.

"A CRASH, the sound of falling glass, and that was all," said an Around the Block item on the front page of the Farmington Enterprise. "But it was sufficient to break the large glass window at the Michigan Bell Telephone Co. A woman, parked on Farmington Road, just in front of the telephone office, lost control of her car, and it jumped the curb and crashed into the window. Fortunately, no one was directly in the path of her car, or a more serious accident might easily have resulted."

ANOTHER AROUND the Block item noted, "The reopening of Brill's Electric Service, and the addition of the Westfall Tailor Shop on Grand River Avenue, makes two new, attractive business concerns in Farmington. We're always glad to see new businesses come to town, and we're sure these two will be most heartily welcomed by all of Farmington."

"IF YOU LIKE good music, listen to Evening Serenade, 6:30 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, station WJBK, Detroit, 1490 on your dial," read an advertisement.

CLASSIFIED AD: "WANTED — HELP — Reliable white girl or woman, no laundry, small family, stay nights, good salary. Phone Pontiac 74391." Another classified: "FOR SALE — 3 acres of Timothy and Clover Hay. 33608 Shawasson. Phone 690."

### JULY 15, 1934 —

AN ORDINANCE prohibiting parking along U.S. 16 (Grand River) near 10 Mile Road was adopted by the Farmington Township Board at a recent meeting. According to the ordinance, no parking will be allowed on the Grand River right of way for 1,000 feet east or west of the intersection of 16 Mile Road.

A TRUCK was involved in an accident on the 10 Mile Road resulting in injuries to three persons and considerable damage to the three vehicles involved. An alarming number of accidents have been reported in this vicinity in the past few days and an article in the Farmington Enterprise.

CLASSIFIED AD: "WOMAN, TO be trained for application of hot pads to convalescing polio patients. Apply in person, Child Hospital of Michigan Convalescent Home, 30403 Grand River."

ANOTHER CLASSIFIED: "LOST — Pewee: Chartreuse parakeet. If you see him, use a pencil or a small stick to catch him. Liberal reward. Farm. 2548-31."

SHORT ITEM: "It is the hardest thing in the world to be a good thinker without being a good self examiner."

### JULY 16, 1964 —

THE BLACKTOPPING of 11 Mile Road from Orchard Lake to Inkster roads, which had been scheduled to begin this summer, may not start until the early summer of 1965, according to Farmington Township Supervisor Curt Hall, who said the delay was due to a shortage of funds.

THE FARMINGTON Board of Education approved the appointment of three new teachers to the district's staff for the 1964-65 school year. Robert A. Clark will teach mathematics and science at Farmington Junior High School. Richard P. Slasser will teach sixth grade at William Grace. Jacquelyn L. Sturte will teach first grade at Highwood.

CONROY'S SUPER Market on Farmington Road advertised rolled rump roast for 99 cents a pound and whole chickens for 29 cents a pound.

FARMINGTON'S GROVES-WALKER Post 346 American Legion baseball team led the 18th District standings as the six-team circuit headed into the final week of action.

### JUNE 27, 1974 —

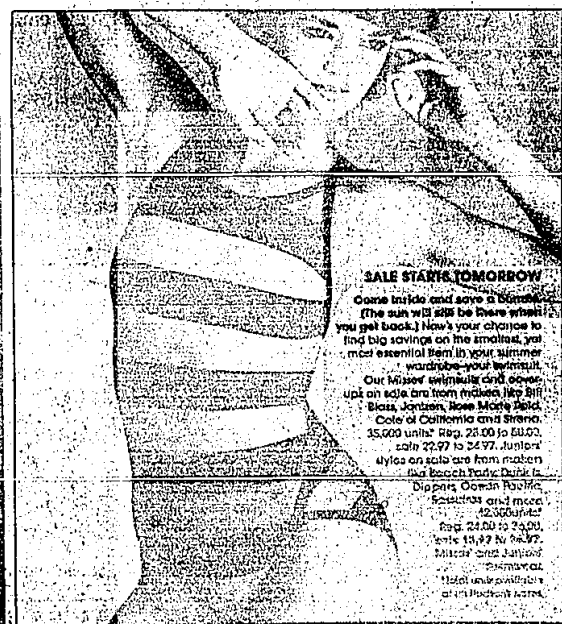
FARMINGTON REPUBLICANS were trying to organize a new club. A group of about 20 area Republicans met recently at the Botsford Inn and appointed Farmington Mayor Ralph Yoder and Farmington Hills Mayor Robert McConnell co-chairmen of the group. "We are concentrating on the party at the county and state levels," McConnell said. He also said that the club would stay out of active in-house races.

THE FARMINGTON HILLS City Council voted to pave Gill Road from Eight Mile Road to Colfax without changing the abutting property owners. Gill Road, which served Gill Elementary and Power Junior High schools, when was impassable during winter months.

THE FARMINGTON HILLS City Council and the Farmington Hills Board of Education met on the 24th to discuss the possibility of a new school building. The council also discussed the possibility of a new school building. The council also discussed the possibility of a new school building.

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