

Greer-Della Mora

Gina Della Mora and David Greer were married late this fall. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edio Della Mora of Farmington Hills and he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Greer of Northville.

The bride is a graduate of Harrison High School and Lawrence Institute of Technology; the groom is a graduate of Northville High School and Northwood College.

They are making their home in Wixom.



Hoseska-Young

Louise Jo-Ann Young and Thomas James Hoseskawere married in The Church of the Resurrection, in Hancock, Mich. She is the daughter of Lyla and Jerry Young Sr. of Farmington Hills and he is the son of Theresa and Thomas Hoseska of Saginaw.

Heather McCurry served as maid of honor and Timothy Bedark as best man.

The bride and groom are both recent graduates of Michigan Technological University.

The couple received guests in Ramada Inn, in Houghton.

They will make their home in Hancock.



Native of Holland here for a visit

Lt. Barbara and Lt. Jonathan Rich of Farmington Hills Salvation Army are hosting a native of Loosdrecht, Holland, whose dream was one day to spend a full year in the United States.

Barbara Rich describes her guest, Erna Plantinga, as a "delightful 19 year old."

Through the ties within The Salvation Army that the Plantinga family has, her father, an envoy in The Dutch Salvation Army, was able to arrange the trip to the United States. From that point Major Dwight Garrison, a Salvation Army officer in Chicago, contacted possible host families. The Riches were one of the first families he called. Erna (pronounced Air-na) will be here for a month.

"Since her arrival here two weeks ago she has been taking applications for Christmas assistance, helping with the kettle fund-raising program, assisting with the children's Christmas musical, working on the computer, wrapping gifts, and generally helping in whatever way she can," Rich said.

The people associated with the Farmington Hills Salvation Army are enjoying their exposure to Dutch culture and one member said recently, "I think we're learning more from her than she is from us."

ERNA VISITED a social studies class at East Middle School last week and is scheduled to speak to a French class at Harrison High as well. They've asked her to speak in

French about Christmas in Holland which presents no problem because she speaks four languages: Dutch, English, French and German.

But she said that after speaking only English for the past six months she'll need to write out her talk in advance.

When asked to make a comparison between life in Holland and here she says, "The people in America seem always to be in a hurry. The food is a lot different; more fast food and much more eating out." She goes on to say that, "eating out in Holland is much more expensive and so are movies."

You don't just walk into a theater on a weekend in Erna's hometown. You call ahead to make a reservation and they seat you when you arrive.

On a more serious note, Erna says, "I think the problem of the homeless people is a lot bigger in America than in Holland. That is probably why The Salvation Army in America has a lot more social work than in Holland."

"ERNA'S PARENTS are wonderful examples of individuals willing to serve other people," Rich said. "Her parents were Salvation Army officers (full-time ministers) until the birth of twins caused them to change their work. Her dad now manages a government-owned retirement home and her mother runs the gift shop in the home three days a week."

The last six months have been ex-

citing for Erna, though quite an adjustment.

At home in Loosdrecht is Erna's identical twin, Esther. They are so much alike in appearance that Erna admits, "Sometimes when a picture comes back from the developer I have to remember what clothes I was wearing to tell the difference between us."

"The Plantinga family is extremely close and their letters to one another — at least what Erna translates from Dutch — reveal a bond of love that transcends thousands of miles," Rich said.

Erna's sister plans to join her for the last month of stay in the United States. The plan is for her to spend two months in Mason City, Iowa, and then three months in California. After a short stay in Chicago with Esther, the two hope to return to Farmington Hills for the last 10 days of Erna's yearlong adventure in America.

When she returns to Loosdrecht, Erna plans to work on her Spanish so



Erna Plantinga

that she can become a flight attendant. This pleases her American host families, who want to keep in touch and someday see Erna again.

Smith-Williams

Donna Lynn Williams and Timothy A. Smith of Redford Township were married Nov. 12 in Ward Presbyterian Church, Livonia.

Parents of the newweds are Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Williams of Livonia and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred K. Smith, Redford Township.

The bride was graduated from Livonia Church Hill High School and attends Madonna College. She is employed as an accounting clerk for Michigan National Bank in

Farmington Hills.

Her bridegroom, a graduate of Livonia Clarenceville High School and Wayne State University, is a reporter for the Southfield Eccentric. He is an alumnus of Sigma Pi Fraternity.

Following a reception at the Finnish Cultural Center in Farmington Hills, the couple honeymooned in Orlando, Fla., and are living in Livonia.

Sclerosis patient's story told in TV movie

Charlie Wedemeyer, a Muscular Dystrophy Association patient battling amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, is the subject of a CBS television movie called "The Charlie Wedemeyer Story" that airs Dec. 26 on WJBK-TV 2 at 9 p.m. The movie stars Michael Nouri in the title role, with Pam Dawber playing Wedemeyer's wife, Lucy.

ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a neuromuscular condition that paralyzes every muscle in the body while the mind remains completely unaffected.

"MDA maintains the world's leading integrated research and patient services program directed at conquering ALS," said MDA Southeastern Michigan Chapter president, Joseph Aubrey. Like Lou Gehrig, the legendary baseball player after whom ALS is named, Wedemeyer was also an athlete. His game, however, was football.

In high school he was a gridiron hero whose nickname was "God of Lightning." Charlie went on to become an all-star player for Michigan State. He later turned his attention to coaching, calling the plays for the Los Angeles (California) Wildcats, a high school football team.

At age 30, the debilitating condition he had developed was diagnosed as ALS, and he was given one year to live. Eight years after his condition was diagnosed, his dream that the Wildcats would clinch the California State Championship became a reality. And now, at age 41, he and his family will watch the CBS television movie about his life.

Recently, MDA established five ALS research centers that are making an all-out assault against this fatal disease. MDA is a private voluntary health agency that offers people with ALS — and anyone with one of the 40 neuromuscular diseases covered by the association's program — a wide variety of patient services ranging from wheelchairs to medical examinations.



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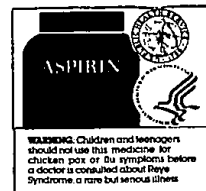
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