

Spotlight on Women

Many Help Build AFS's Bridges

Foreign exchange students are known as builders of bridges of understanding.

In the case of American Field Service students, at least, plenty of undergirding goes into the bridges.

Students and the families they visit — on both sides of the ocean and equator — are screened by painstaking methods to make each year's program the most beneficial possible.

It's a process that requires dedication and hard work by both students and adults.

A LOOK at the Bentley High School American Field Service program at this juncture can provide an example of the AFS system with all its selectivity and safeguards.

Two students from other lands, Jeff Russo of Italy and Pat Eastman of Colombia, are getting ready for finals with the rest of the Bentley students.

In a few weeks they'll go to Milwaukee for a get-together with scores of other AFS visitors who have been in this country for a year. Then it will be back to homes and families with a new view of America to describe to their countrymen.

And far away in Australia a Bentley girl, Maureen Brennan is in the middle of a study year in a land-down-under school. She will be flying back to Livonia next January to graduate with the 1971 Bentley class.

THEIR SELECTION and the arrangements made for their visits were outlined by Mrs. Carol Bolin and Mrs. Esther Friedrichs, incoming and

outgoing presidents of the AFS adult chapter at Bentley.

The procedures may vary somewhat in this country from chapter to chapter and do show some major differences in other nations, Mrs. Friedrichs pointed out, but a high degree of selectivity always marks the AFS program.

Both in choosing families to host visiting AFS students and in picking the local student who is to go traveling, local chapters do the original narrowing down and AFS headquarters in New York makes the final selection.

A VOLUNTEER committee does the interviewing for families who would like to have a foreign visitor, Mrs. Bolin said.

"It's getting a bit harder to find families who can and want to do this," she added. "I have a theory that it's because one requirement is that the mother not work — at least not during the hours when the student will be home — and more and more women do hold jobs now."

But always several families at Bentley are interested.

"The committee gives them applications designed to show how the family operates — hobbies, clubs, vacation patterns, what is expected of the teens," Mrs. Friedrichs said.

"We narrow it down to two and then send the applications to New York where the matching up is done with the students who will be coming to the United States.

"They try to put together a family and a student who will share at least some of their ideals and enthusiasms," Mrs. Bolin recalled that a Swedish boy who visited the Bolin

family a few years ago fitted in remarkably well with the family's tall sons.

"He even was very tall, like them," she said.

THE BEST MATCHING of student and family is done, Mrs. Friedrichs pointed out, when the committee is completely frank in its evaluation of the family.

On the other side of the ocean, methods of evaluation vary. A French boy visiting another family in Livonia this year reported he was called in for several interviews — and was told each time he was a little closer to his goal of being an exchange student.

The last time, he said, he was questioned in great detail as to how he would act in various situations. "I decided I'd have to be a diplomat," he said.

A similar plan is used in Livonia to pick the students who will visit another country, either for a full school year or for a summer program. In this case, the committee that does the interviewing consists of several Bentley High faculty representatives, several from the AFS adult chapter and several from the community, preferably including a former student who has participated in the AFS program.

The list of students interested is narrowed to two, and again the New York headquarters does the final selecting.

"ONE INTERESTING thing about these selections," Mrs. Friedrichs said, "is that we find more girls are interested in being exchange students and more boys seem to come to this country."

"The boys here seem more involved in sports activities and the girls are often more mature," she said. "But in the older cultures, families are more protective of their daughters but often feel this program would be a great experience for their sons."

When the students have been selected, detailed instructions go both ways and stringent regulations are outlined and enforced.

'Women Who Care' Theme For MSU 1970 College Week

A leading church woman, a cabinet member's wife and Michigan volunteers in community projects will offer their pictures of "Michigan Women Who Care" during College Week for Women.

The annual event for homemakers is scheduled June 16 to 19 at Michigan State University.

Featured speakers include Dr. Cynthia Wedel, president of the National Council of Churches, and Mrs. Clifford Harlan, wife of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and former dean of MSU's College of Agriculture.

Women who have been involved in community volunteer projects will share their experiences.

DR. WILLIAM COOPER, MSU professor of zoology, will speak on ecology, pollution and environment. A panel composed of an entomologist, housing expert and state legislator will react to the presentation.

According to Mrs. Wilma Miller, College Week coordinator, the entire week is built

around a theme of "Michigan Women Who Care." A number of the special College Week classes reflect the interest of women in improving living conditions.

Each woman may select two of 16 classes. Each class meets for three-hour-and-a-half sessions. Topics range from textiles design, landscaping and food shopping skills, to society's demands on women, leadership skills, and use and abuse of drugs and alcohol.

There will also be tours of the capitol, the MSU planetarium and a film on "Power of a Woman." Evening plans include a reception to meet MSU administrators and a theater production.

MRS. MILLER said registration, housing and meals for the four-day "week" is \$37. However, a commuter registration is only \$7.

If women cannot attend for the entire week, they are welcome for a single day, Thursday, and the cost for that day is \$4.

Singers Get Trophy

For the second consecutive year, the Metro-D Chapter, Sweet Adelines, Inc., won the Madeline trophy in an annual convention in Grand Rapids. The Metro-D Chapter is sponsored by the Garden City Parks and Recreation Department.

Nine choruses from Michigan, Ohio and Windsor competed in the contest, with the local chapter placing highest

among seven chapters with a membership of 30 or less.

Sweet Adelines, Inc., is an international barbershop harmony organization for women. Those who are interested in joining should call Mrs. Charles Haehele, at KE 8-6218. Metro-D Chapter meets each Thursday evening in the Garden City Pool Building, Middle Belt near Warren.



AFS FAMILY — Mr. and Mrs. Karl Ehrenfeld of Livonia pose for a family picture with their son John (left) and Jeff Russo, American Field student visitor from Italy. (Evert photo)

AFS students may not drive a car, fly in a private plane, hitchhike, work more than a few hours a week or make more than one visit during the year away from his American "home." His family here gets detailed advice on a myriad of matters, like working out language difficulties, homesickness, clothing and allowances.

The school helps by directing the visitors into academic programs that will bring out their full potential but not be overwhelming.

FINANCING of the AFS program perhaps shows its greatest differences from other foreign exchange programs. The cost paid by the local chapter is \$850 for each

student involved, and the national program adds more.

More students pay something toward the cost of their AFS years, but this varies greatly with ability to pay

m. m. memos

The school year that I knew in advance would be a real pip roars close to its conclusion this week. And guess who lands right in the middle.

If I were a well-organized type who carefully recorded a write-in calendar, I'd have seen this week coming.

In my disoriented state, it crept up on me. Anyway, in mapping the week's plans with a high school sophomore, a junior high and two elementary schoolers, I realized that in the space of five days I'm planning to attend:

- One Brownie fly-up.
- One Cadette Girl Scout end-of-the-year program.
- One band banquet.
- One piano recital.
- One evening concert.
- One afternoon concert.

To say nothing of hosting a pajama party. Now I expect to enjoy every one of these occasions, and I itemize my list only because I realize I have a great deal of company among families in these suburbs.

Each activity that each child and/or parent is engaged in seems to equal one special activity during the last weeks of the school year.

I'm just waiting for the day—which I'm sure many parents have faced-of being absolutely required to be in two or more places at the same time. That's when a split personality might be handy.

Margaret Miller

Toastmistress Head Speaks In Contest

Mrs. John Ralston, president of the Redford Toastmistress Club, will be in Dayton, Ohio, Saturday, June 6, to compete for the Great Lakes Regional Contest crown. The winner will be eligible to continue to the International Toastmistress Contest in Portland, Ore.

Mrs. Ralston, winner of the Council 4 speech contest in Sarnia, will be accompanied by Mrs. Donald Baker, Mrs. Ralph Prouse and Mrs. Stuart Shaulter. All will participate in regional business sessions, and workshops in communications, personal development, and club procedures, to be conducted by professors from Dayton University.

Also in attendance will be the newly-elected Council 4 president, Mrs. William White. She will attend leadership council workshops.

The Redford club will meet Tuesday, June 9, at 1 p.m., in the People's Federal Savings

and Loan Bank conference room, Beech-Daly and Joy.

Officers will be elected and regional reports will be presented. Anyone who wishes to attend should call the club representative Mrs. George Mid-dewood at TE 4-8353, or Mrs. Ralston at GR 4-8127.

Mary Van Pelt Is May Bride

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey A. Van Pelt Jr., of Pawnee Drive, Westland, announce the marriage of their daughter, Mary Elizabeth, to Laurence Alan Feather on Friday, May 8 in Newburg United Methodist Church, Livonia.

The bridegroom is the son of Ralph P. Feather Jr., of Inkster, and Mrs. Howard Forster of New Brunswick, N.J.

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NEW LOOK—Girls in physical education classes in Farmington junior and senior high schools will be able to purchase a brand-new style of gym suit next fall. Modeled here by Valerie Kochans, left, of Farmington Junior High, it's a one-piece synthetic fiber suit with the two-piece look, and it features a navy blue and white striped top and navy shorts. Still available will be the familiar light blue cotton suit worn by Judy Caplia, also of FJH. (Evert photo)