

# Farmington Girl Going to Africa In Peace Corps

Miss Muriene Dowling, daughter of Mrs. Murray Dowling of 33719 Oakland, will be sworn in at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City on Sunday, Dec. 27, and step on a plane pointed toward Africa—to Morocco, Nairobi, Kenya, and finally Malawi. She will become the third Farmington High graduate from the Class of '60 to join the Peace Corps of the United States.

After successfully completing her 14 week Peace Corps training program at Syracuse University on December 5, Miss Dowling came back to Farmington where she has related an account of the Peace Corps screening and training programs.

"About two years ago," she said, "I decided to try, and quality for the Peace Corps. I was given an extensive test covering a vast number of subjects including math, languages and vocabulary." Muriene said that the tests are geared to "pick out a person's interests and see where his abilities lie."

In May of 1963, Muriene, along with the other candidates who passed the test, was given extensive questionnaires. "It asked questions pertaining to our background, skills, activities, hobbies and our work with other people, especially children." The questionnaire also asked Muriene to name 10 people as references.

One out of every five people

who fill out a Peace Corps questionnaire actually get a chance to train. Miss Dowling was one of these chosen few, and when she arrived at her training center, she found out that Peace Corps investigators



Miss Dowling

her friends and acquaintances before they accepted her for training. "It's a little known fact," Muriene commented, "that the screening done on Peace Corps volunteers is more extensive and intensive than that done for candidates for the United States Secret Service."

In February, 1964, Muriene was given 10 days to decide whether or not she wanted to go through with the Peace Corps

training center on the campus of Syracuse University. Her specific group trained candidates to teach in the country of Malawi in southeastern Africa.

"Malawi, formerly called Nyasaland, gained its independence on July 6, 1964," Muriene commented. "It is near the border of the Congo and there are Peace Corps volunteers in Malawi now."

The Peace Corps training program is exhausting, as Miss Dowling's account reveals. "Syracuse University we lived in student apartments," she remarked, "but we were often in classes from the early morning until 10 at night."

For three hours every day they were there, volunteers were in language classes with native instructors, learning the language of Malawi, Chinyanja. Four hours a day for eight weeks were spent student teaching at local schools near the campus. "In my case," Muriene said, "I taught history to emotionally disturbed children."

Teaching such children gave Muriene experience in working with children who have difficulty in understanding. Besides learning the language and practice teaching, Muriene took courses relating to first aid, health problems, physical education, United States political history, geography of the country, and living conditions and customs of the country of Malawi.

Of health problems, Muriene said that "precautions have to be taken for things we take for granted here. All the water we drink must be boiled and the food we eat must be cooked for an unusually long time."

"Also, during our stay at the university, we were given over 20 shots and inoculations to prevent polio, diphtheria, lung fever, small pox, yellow fever, typhoid and rabies."

Muriene said that many obstacles were put in the paths of the Corps' trainees to test their maturity, their stamina, and in general, how well they can "take it." As she put it, "We were tested to the frustration point." Small things such as poor food, classes being called off, things not being done on time or bicycles breaking down are enough to frustrate some people, and the way they handled these "small emergencies" was important.

Selections for the volunteers were made by a 26-man board which was aided by teachers' comments and reports from the psychologists and psychiatrists who interviewed the candidates at various times during the training program.

There were 140 trainees enrolled in this most recent "Malawi school" and from these, Muriene said, "105 will actually make the trip overseas." The others were selected out for various reasons which were discussed with them before they returned home.

Following her arrival in Malawi, she will be given "in country training" for about three weeks before actually going out on her own to teach English or European History.

Her pay will be \$100 a month.

**Gluckstein Supported**  
The Sept. 30 issue of this paper carried a summary of a speech given by Martin Gluckstein, a chemist living in the Farmington community. The title of the speech was "Chemical Warfare — A Step Toward Peace?"

The title gave the impression that we had a Dr. Strangelove in our midst. But an examination of the text revealed Dr. Gluckstein as a man concerned with the problem of cutting down on the suffering and fatality of war.

The New York Times recently revealed that chemists of the U.S. Army are working on this project. When Gluckstein was informed of this, he did not gather around him the mantle of a prophet. He said quite modestly that ideas of this kind have been circulating in the world of chemistry for years.



IT'S TAX TIME again in Farmington Township.

Personal property taxes have to be in by Jan. 19. On real estate property there is an extended deadline date of Feb. 15. Beyond that date a 4 per cent fee must be added to the payment. Township Treasurer Elise Avery, seen here with her staff, says the taxes are coming in a little better this year than last. She reminds citizens that dog licenses are also available at her office. From left to right, Treasurer's Clerk Irene Schlingee; Mrs. Avery; and bookkeeper Edna Buckner. In back of them is assistant bookkeeper Doris Carmack.

## Clarenceville, Two Other Districts To Hire Full-Time Special Education Diagnostician

The Clarenceville School District will join with the communities of South Lyon and Novi to employ a full-time diagnostician to serve in the area of special education.

The decision was reached Thursday at a meeting of the Board of Education.

In other business:

School calendar policy was adopted to establish a uniform school schedule each year.

Adult Education program will receive new emphasis toward increased offering for school district's residents, the Board decided.

N. D. E. A. funds were approved for purchase of current pending orders.

In-service workshop for elementary staff, was planned for January. Representative teachers will plan and present this program.

Special election date was set for March 23.

The opening date for use

of the Edgewood addition will be delayed due to material shortages and late shipments, the Board announced.

The Clarenceville School District has formed its own Special Committee to devise a program which will provide maximum opportunity for youth and adults alike to acquire more basic skills and training in remedial, vocational, recreational, cultural, and extra curricular areas. The programs as planned will be so geared that they will blend into any community programs set up under the terms of the Economic Opportunity Act. The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 has as its objective a better America for all citizens through educational and vocational training and work opportunity. The program is broad in scope under the Community School Concept. There is a program designed to fit the training which will lead to better opportunities for all ages, including:

1. Adult Basic Education.
2. Neighborhood Youth Corps. Participants must be age 18 through 21, must have dropped out of school or be in danger of dropping out.
3. Work-Training Program to provide useful experience opportunities for unemployed young men and young women.
4. Pre-School Training (nursery classes) Your schools will play a major part in these opportunity activities.

### Duplicate Bridge News

Winners for the Dec. 15 game at the Farmington Duplicate Club are first place: Melvin Bowers and Dwight McBride both of Milford. Second place, Jim Fitzpatrick and Stella Fitzpatrick, Detroit. Third place, John and Marjorie Smith, Farmington. Winners placed down to 4 places.

There will be a game Dec. 23, and an MMP game Dec. 30.

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