

# Traveling Teens Will Talk To Boost Exchange Program

By MARGARET MILLER

When you're a high school senior and you've spent a summer visiting in a foreign country, you just love to talk about it.

What's more, you want more kids to have the experience.

And that's the basis of a new "Youth For Understanding" speakers' bureau program being launched here.

It will give clubs some enthusiastic speakers and interesting programs, let the students spread the word about YFU and raise funds to expand the program.

Under the plan, 16 high school senior "returnees," those who have come back from summers with families abroad, will offer their services as speakers for club, church and service groups.

In return for the talks, which will be illustrated with pictures they have taken on their visits, they will ask a contribution to Youth For Understanding.

Mrs. Ann Timmons of Farmington, coordinating the program, said the money would be credited to the school the student attends, and the fund thus accumulated will be divided among students from that school who qualify for YFU visits next summer.

"It's such a fantastic experience. I want to recommend it to everybody," said Denise Ott, Plymouth resident who attends Our Lady of Mercy High School and visited in Holland last summer.

"I've wished the price could be less so more people could do it," added Sue Ray-buck of North Farmington.



DENISE OTT (left) of Plymouth, Sue Ray-buck of Farmington and Merja Syrjanen, an exchange student from Finland, check the slide illustrations they will use for travel talks to boost Youth For Understanding. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

High School. She went to Germany.

Mrs. Timmons agreed that the \$850 price tag on a two month visit seems high to some and possibly could increase.

"That's the purpose of our new program - to make these visits possible for more students," she said.

The returnees, who also include Mexico, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and France among the lands visited, probably will be joined in their project by some of the foreign students spending the current school year in this area under YFU.

These students are from all those countries, as well as Japan, the Philippines, Liberia, Yugoslavia, Greece and Finland.

Merja Syrjanen, visiting from Finland and attending Stevenson High School while living with the Ernst Price family in Livonia, said she's hoping to participate as her command of English improves.

"I brought many pictures from Finland, and my father is sending me more," she said. "I hope to find a projector suitable for showing them."

The returnees all are from

Farmington, Plymouth, Livonia, Northville and Novi, the district for YFU headed by Mrs. Nina Orr of Farmington.

Organizing for the first time this year, they have set themselves to aid the visiting students in any way they can.

One activity this fall was a Halloween party for the visitors and their local "sisters" and "brothers," introducing the exchange students to the strictly American customs of bobbing for apples and eating pumpkin pie.

The Youth For Understanding speakers are ready

to share their experiences in club programs. Organizations interested may call Mrs. Clay Timmons, 3366 Hillcrest, Farmington, or Mrs. Wesley Orr, 3538 Farmington Road, Farmington.

Youth For Understanding is a program that began after World War II and involves exchange visits by students for either a summer or a full school year.

Centered in Ann Arbor, it sends students from all over this country to a score of lands overseas. More information on YFU is available from high school counselors or from Mrs. Orr.



CHARLIE, THE COMPUTER, was watching as Pete Chompouras kissed his bride Sharon following their wedding in the Realtron office in Redford Township. (Kathy Willens photo)

## 'License Contract Properly Confirmed'

By MARGARET MILLER

Sharon and Pete and Charlie tied the knot before Thanksgiving.

Sharon and Pete have new wedding rings. Charlie can point with pride to some big print-out sheets that had a prominent spot at their wedding reception.

Charlie, it should be explained, is the computer "brain" of Realtron Corp., 2405 Five Mile, Redford Township.

Not exactly mobile, he got to join 100-plus guests at the wedding of Sharon Berman and Pete A. Chompouras because they chose to have the ceremony in a conference room of the company where they met and work and close in love.

Wayne County Clerk Joseph B. Sullivan was the one who said "I now pronounce you man and wife" at the conclusion of the traditional ceremony.

But Charlie still had the last word.

Programmed especially for the occasion and plugged in over his telephone speaker by Jack Jominy, president of Realtron, Charlie told the newlyweds:

"Computer to address group now present Nov. 21, 7 p.m. Realtron group present to see license contract properly confirmed. Status is now not bachelor. Immediate magic improvement. You two are one. Female now private property. Future prospect is security. Status now not taxable. Computer state Thank You."

Jominy pointed out that if Charlie's language seemed stilted, the guests would have to understand that his vocabulary numbers just 256 words, the kind usually used to transmit real state information all over the country for the computerized real estate firm.

The bride, collections supervisor at Realtron, and the bridegroom, an accountant there, had decided to have their wedding in the office building but their fellow workers arranged Charlie's participation as a surprise.

"We wanted to be married here because this is where all our friends are, and Mr. and Mrs. Jominy made it possible," Sharon said.

She added that because she is Jewish and Pete is Greek Orthodox they had decided on a civil ceremony and a non-church setting, and the office seemed perfect.

"All the employees are our friends," she said. "It's a family place and everyone is close."

Sharon's sister, Brenda Mermel of Detroit, was maid of honor, and the best man was John Chompouras, the bridegroom's cousin.

Also in the wedding party were James and Mary Nelson of Inkster, another couple who met at Realtron employees, and Sharon's young son and daughter from her previous marriage, Barry and Michelle Berman.

Charlie was in on the wedding preparations as well as the actual ceremony. He computerized the invitations.

And a printout of the words "Charlie Ties the Knot" was displayed in the Dala Party Room, Redford Township, where the reception was held.

"When I started working here I weighed 260 pounds," she confided, "and I'm 140 now. Everybody here helped me do it. There's no company like this one."

Sharon and Pete are on their honeymoon and will make their home in Livonia. Charlie is keeping things going at Realtron.

## G. Ann Moore Heads Buyers

G. Ann Moore, director of purchasing for Schoolcraft College, is the new president of the Michigan District of the National Association of Educational Buyers.

She is the first woman ever to head a state organization of the national group.

Mrs. Moore, a Westland resident on the Schoolcraft staff since 1966, presided over the recent state NAEB meeting at Lake Superior State College, Sault Ste. Marie.

Members of the organization are buyers for colleges, universities and other Michigan institutions.

Mrs. Moore studied business administration at the University of Minnesota and was employed in private

## Juliet Mitchell Will Lecture

Juliet Mitchell, noted British social critic and author of "Woman's Estate," will lecture on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 8 p.m., in the University of Michigan Rackham amphitheater in Ann Arbor.

One of the foremost figures in Britain's women's liberation movement, Miss Mitchell is on the editorial board of "New Left Review" and has lectured extensively in England, Scandinavia, Canada and the United States.

Her appearance is sponsored by the U-M Women's Studies Program with the university psychology department and Center for the Continuing Education of Women. The public is invited at no charge.



G. ANN MOORE

business before joining the Schoolcraft staff.

She and her husband, John, have two sons, John, 14, and William, 12.

## Singles Plan Gala Dec. 7

The Swinging Singles, for persons 25 and up, will sponsor a cocktail party, Friday, Dec. 7, at 9 p.m. in the Al-

varos Supper Club, 1824 W. 14 Mile, Royal Oak. There will be dancing to the music of Johnnie C.

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