

# Slide show brings faraway friends closer

Students at Cefn-Hengoed school in Swansea, Wales are very familiar with Farmington — thanks to a mini-documentary produced exclusively by geography students at Warner Junior High last spring.

More than 30 seventh graders contributed to the 50-minute slide show and narration. Pictures of downtown Farmington, Bonaventure Roller Rink, local schools, hobbies and recreational activities were added to give the total picture of life in the Farmington area.

Gifted program coordinator Sharon Higham got the idea for the audio-visual presentation after a Welsh educational contingent visited Warner last spring.

"I thought about pen pals, but with a different focus. Rather than letters, I thought slides might be a more valuable cultural exchange," she said.

Geography teacher Jim Sutherland liked the idea and put one of his classes to work on the month-long project. Each student chose an area of interest, took a half dozen slides and taped an accompanying dialogue.

From neon artwork to designer jeans, the Pontiac Silverdome to Burger King, Ms. Higham took the finished product to the heavily industrialized Welsh town where she spent three weeks last summer in an educational exchange program.

"It turned out so well that we're expanding it this year," she said. "Hopefully, this year students will get a slide show in return. Last year, we started too late in the year for that to happen."

SUTHERLAND WILL put three of his seventh grade geography classes to work on the projects next month. One presentation will be sent to Wales. Plans are in the works to send the others to Mexico and Japan.

Last year's attempt wasn't without problems, Ms. Higham admitted.

"The Welsh students had a difficult time understanding the American kids' diction," she said.

Some slides were overexposed. Greg Leshman and Jim Glines photographed Abbey Road Amusements, 7-11 stores and Burger King, but the pictures didn't turn out.

"If we had more time, it would've been easier," said Sherry Kent, who featured the works of local artists in her presentation.

Sherry and Jody Weinberg, whose contribution was a look inside local movie theatres, received letters from a Welsh girl who liked their work.

"The idea has spread to other schools," Sutherland said. "Some classes at O.E. Dunkel and East Junior highs, Eagle and Highmeadow elementary schools have picked up on it this year."



The finished product — a slide show presentation of Farmington and environs — is examined by Warner Junior High students who put it together last spring. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Fun awaits kids

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Farmington area Jaycees.

THE JAYCEES put together the haunted house which caused a real but short-lived fright for West Bloomfield police who stumbled into the basement by accident last week.

So convincing were the eerie effects that the police thought they had discovered a grisly, ritualistic murder scene — complete with hanging floodlights, a stone altar and freshly dug graves — until they found the Jaycee haunted house sign.

"This is the Jaycee's 13th annual haunted house and it's the biggest and best one ever," said Sever.

The Jaycees invested 100 members' time and \$4,000 into converting the condemned house into its spooky condition.

"We saw it and liked it, so we rented it from the owner," Sever said.

The house was condemned in February 1978 and will be torn down. But not before an estimated 15,000 people pay

\$1.50 each to tour the Halloween hot spot.

The haunted house is the Jaycees' biggest fund-raising event of the year. Last year, it grossed \$21,000.

"Last year, people came from Dearborn and Detroit, some from as far as 30 miles away to go through the house," Sever said.

Sever said it will take the average visitor 10 minutes to walk through the house.

"If they make it," he added. "They're going to be running into monsters constantly. And they should watch out for the gorilla."

FLUORESCENT and strobe lights as well as eerie taped music will add to the effects.

"No one should come alone. It's possible someone could get lost."

He said last year's youngest visitor was about six years old "and in his father's arms the whole time."

The haunted house is open every night through Halloween from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

## Candidates face issues

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sues should also be addressed in the campaign.

Among the issues he would like to consider is maintenance of the city's master plan, holding taxation increases to a minimum by a cost versus benefit analysis and by maintenance of current zoning whenever possible.

Candidate Shirley Stadler, a planning commission member, also has put a stress on dealing with other issues besides the housing program.

LAND USE HAS been one of her ma-

nor concerns throughout the campaign. She supports the newly instituted IRO zoning which would provide for commercial development to a height of 60 feet in selected areas of the city.

"Land is money and property brings in tax dollars," she said.

But Mrs. Stadler, too, took a shot at the council's ability to communicate.

"Housing is an issue because of the way the council arrived at its decision. In the future there should be support from the community. We need a good public education program," she said.

## Court costs rise

(Continued from page 1A)

money on district courts, other cities lose it."

Brotherton added that P.A. 111 would also standardize judge's salaries.

"I think all citizens should have the right to the same quality of judicial service," said Ross. "But because of the passage of Headlee, I'm not sure it is possible. We are already \$100 million out of balance on our budget."

"To add several million dollars to run the district courts . . . where would the money come from? Voters don't want increases in state taxes."

"The change would have to be made by Constitutional amendment, not just by a public act because you run into problems with the spending limitations under Headlee," Ross said.

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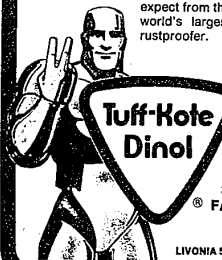
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