

A bit 'o green comes to Hills

By Dan Vecchioni
staff writer

Talking to a reporter old enough to be her father, Honoria McGrotty seems restless. Like most 11-year-olds on a warm summer day, she would prefer to be playing outdoors.

The freckle-faced lass from Londonderry, Northern Ireland, munches on an apple and M&Ms, tugs at her Michigan T-shirt and smiles loquaciously — until she is asked about the violence.

"It's terrible," she said. "The violence is close. Sometimes we can see the bombs. I knew a boy who got a plastic ball shot in his head by the army. It's more peaceful here (in the United States). There's not a lot of violence."

Honoria was in Livonia last week for a two-day visit with her uncle and aunt, John and Kitty Heilmann of Hathaway Street. Then she returned to the Chicago area, where she is spending two months this summer with a local family under the Irish Children's Fund.

The fund, John Heilmann said, has brought more than a thousand children from violence-torn Northern Ireland to the United States for the summer. Chicago-area families are hosting 100 of the children — 80 Catholics and 20 Protestants. The Detroit area is not yet included in the program, Heilmann said.

HONORIA, THE oldest of four children, comes from a Catholic family. "We don't really see a difference being Catholic, but troublemakers do," she said.

She was one of only two students selected from the nearly 1,000 who at-

tend her school to participate in the program this summer. In the fall, she enters the first grade of secondary school (equivalent to eighth grade here).

"This is my first visit (to the United States). It's great, fantastic," she said. "But people talk funny over here. You have a different accent."

In Chicago, she said, she stays with a family but gets together with the other Irish children for group outings. The 500, the Sears Tower and the University of Notre Dame are among the places they will visit.

Honoria's stop in Livonia was not on her original itinerary and was made possible through a coincidence, Heilmann said.

"We knew Honoria was in the country but wouldn't have known how to contact her," he said. "But our next-door neighbors happened to know the family Honoria is staying with in Chicago."

The result was an invitation for Honoria, whose mother, Amy, is the sister of Kitty Heilmann, to spend a couple of days in Livonia and an excuse to get together with Honoria's other uncles and aunts, who moved from Ireland to the area.

THESE INCLUDE Tom Moran of Redford, Lawrence and Sharyn Moran of Redford, Bridget Moran of Southfield, John and Phyllis Finnerty of Farmington Hills and Mary and Art Gold of Oak Park.

Honoria said it's fantastic seeing my relatives "some for the first time, but admitted that she missed her friends and family in Derry, Still, she said, she would like to move here when she gets older.



DAN DEAN/Staff photographer
Honoria McGrotty's Irish eyes are smiling as she visits her uncles and aunts in the Livonia area. The 11-year-old lass from Londonderry is visiting the U.S. under a program that removes children from Northern Ireland's violence-torn areas for the summer.

Budget bill introduced

A bill that would require fiscal agencies to prepare economic impact statements for certain legislation has been introduced in the Michigan House by State Representative W.V. "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington.

The bill (H.R. 4899), would require an explanation of how any legislation might curtail or enhance the state employment rate in the 24-month period following its enactment.

"Before legislation is passed we should have some idea of how many people will be employed once it goes into effect," Brotherton said. "We should also know what geographic area will benefit from the job and the existing employment and unemployment rates in that specific area."

Brotherton said the bill would call for a study of any increased costs to state and local government, including tax revenue lost. It also would require an analysis of probable construction, expansion, modification or alteration of any structure, equipment or facility owned by the state.

Should the plan be adopted, the fiscal agency which prepares the economic statement would provide a copy of it to the Legislature, the public, the director

of commerce and to the director of the executive department being affected. "I think we should get all the facts before we make any crucial decisions concerning Michigan's business climate," Brotherton said. "Sensible fiscal policy demands in-depth study of how much proposed legislation could cost the state. I hope the Legislature will swiftly enact this common-sense piece of legislation."

Podiatrist graduates

Lanny Stuart Foster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Foster, of Farmington Hills, has received the doctor of podiatric medicine degree from the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine in Chicago. A graduate of Boston University in 1977, Foster is now in a residency program at Strath Memorial Hospital, Southfield.

While at the Scholl College, Foster was active in the Durlacher Honor Society.

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Manufacturers names vice president

Farmington Hills resident Anthony J. Polizzano has been promoted to vice president, Bank Investments Division, with responsibilities for wire transfers

at Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit.

Polizzano received his bachelor of sci-

ence degree in industrial management from Lawrence Institute of Technology.

He joined the consumer loan depart-

ment at Manufacturers Bank in 1983. He transferred in 1972 to the Wire Transfer Division as a manager and was named an officer in 1974.



Anthony Polizzano

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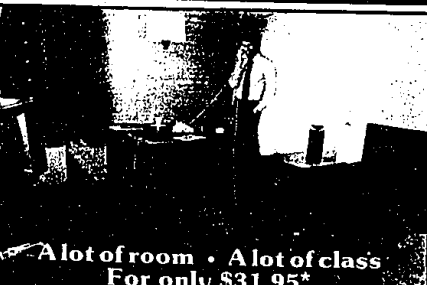
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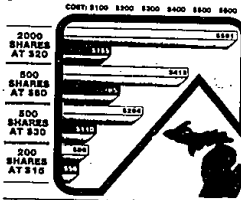
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