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Philippine Visit Rewarding For Young Livonia Traveler

By RICK McCULLEN

LIVONIA

A quick trip to the province of Batangas in the Philippines is just one of many fond memories in the making for Mark Handzlik, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Handzlik, 11013 Berwick, Livonia.

Mark is living and studying in the Philippines this summer under the sponsorship of Youth for Understanding, a program of international student exchange which sends American students abroad and brings foreign students for study in the U.S.

Handzlik, a Franklin High School senior, is spending two months with the Pablo Maxili family in Quezon City, a suburb of Manila, where he has been living since late June.

HANDZLIK's letter home describes his Philippine experience so far as "still rather strange."

"I have seen all of Manila, and have been more shocked at how similar it is, rather than how different," he reports.

"I'm adjusting to the ways here. My ears have adjusted to the accent, and now that that has happened, my tongue will probably change without my being aware of it."

Handzlik said he was most surprised at the "reserved" nature of Philippine women. "The people here are all very friendly," he reports, "but the women, even my 'mother' here,

are very quiet and rarely talk unless spoken to."

Besides the quiet women, who might seem a blessing here in the U.S., Handzlik says he has had difficulty getting used to the constant presence of traffic in his Philippine household.

His Philippine "brother", Dan Macillo, who will be spending next year in the U.S. with a Segisaw family, has the opposite problem.

"I'M AFRAID I've scared him," Handzlik says, "with the fact that there will be no maids in the U.S."

Handzlik described Philippine children as lacking in independence, at least by American standards. "Families here are very close-knit," he remarked, "and unlike Americans they spend the majority of their time within the family circle."

"Many Filipinos were surprised when I told them that an American baby may sleep alone its first day home from the hospital. Here a child doesn't sleep by itself until it is 12 years old."

"I now realize," he continued, "how too independent a child is expected to be, even in the early stages, in the states. I think this may be why so many American children are maladjusted. We all need to practice more family cooperation in the states, while in the Philippines there is a need for more independence."

Handzlik said the trip has helped him to better understand not only the Philippines, but the U.S. as well. "I benefit many, many times more than a tourist would," says Handzlik, "because a tourist never gets to see much of the culture, whereas I am living like a Filipino does."

Youth for Understanding, the organization which sponsors Handzlik's trip, has its headquarters in Ann Arbor. YFU is the second largest teenage exchange program in existence and in its 15 years it has grown to include nearly 5,000 students each year.

regional offices, or the Ann Arbor headquarters. Selection is on an individual basis, determined by information from the applicant, references, school records, a personal statement, and an interview.

HANDZLIK saved the money for the trip and applied through the Ann Arbor office on his own before asking his parents to OK the plans. His inspiration came from a YFU student from Bolivia who stayed with the Handzliks seven years ago.



MARK HANDZLIK

Lim Teaches Chemistry

Edward C. Lim, 2878 Oak Point Drive, Farmington, is one of the Wayne State University professors teaching in a summer science program for forty Detroit area high school students.

Started four years ago to interest inner-city students in scientific careers while providing them with summer jobs, the program was broadened this summer to include 10 students from outlying and suburban schools.

The Wayne project originated in WSU's physics department in 1967, and now includes the chemistry and biology departments.

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MRS. RACHEL ANDRESEN, executive director of YFU since its inception, describes the organization as "an inter-faith, inter-racial approach to international good will."

YFU is related to and cooperates with churches, schools and community organizations both here and abroad. Working in cooperation with the Department of State, it now involves 40 different countries in a program of direct cultural contact through day-by-day living with a family.

The program started in 1951 with a small group of 75 German exchange students placed in southeastern Michigan. YFU now supports regional staff representatives in 11 states and has offices in 20 foreign countries.

All regional YFU representatives are available to assist in program development in adjacent areas.

Applicants may apply through their high schools,

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