

Christmas Brings Understanding

At Christmas, as at every other time of the year, the Youth For Understanding means a widening of horizons for the lucky teens who participate.

Wilma Vorwerk of Holland and Lisa Vanderberg of Farmington would be the first to say that's true.

"Sisters" for the year because of YFU, Wilma and Lisa will not spend Christmas together, but they've shared some holiday traditions and both will learn first hand of the holiday season in lands far from home.

THE TWO GIRLS have joined in shopping expeditions and in the pre-Christmas excitement at Farmington High School.

On an early December Sunday, they shared in the traditional ceremony of lighting an Advent candle at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, which Lisa attends. For Wilma, whose family is Catholic, it was the first visit to a Protestant church service.

But Wilma will join the holiday festivities of the

Vernon Vanderberg family without Lisa. Her American sister left last weekend for Uruguay to visit Isabel Fernandez, who was her Youth For Understanding "sister" in Farmington two years ago.

The four-week trip to visit Isabel, she said, is a "Christmas and birthday and graduation present all in one," and while enjoying a South American summer she'll have a chance to learn about holiday customs in Uruguay.

IN BETWEEN the times of playing American hostess to two Youth For Understanding guests, Lisa has done some YFU visiting on her own.

Last summer she stayed in the home of a family in Brannschweig, Germany.

Making new friends, meeting new people, learning different customs and traveling a lot are what Youth For Understanding is all about, both girls agreed.

Wilma, who had completed high school in her home village of s-Hertogenbosch, wanted a chance to see some of the world before deciding whether to go on to university

study, and Youth For Understanding offered her the opportunity.

In the process, she's found scores of new friends at Farmington High and has enjoyed competing on its girls' swimming team and pursuing some supplemental studies.

With a working knowledge of French, German, Latin and Greek as well as English and her native Dutch, Wilma decided to add Spanish to her language repertoire. Within a few weeks, she was moved from beginning Spanish to the second-year class.

WILMA WILL BE with the Vanderbergs until next summer and when she gets back to Holland will decide whether to go to college and study sociology or seek an opportunity for some service work, perhaps in an African country.

Friendliness is the main characteristic of the people she's met here, she said. "At school the other students are so friendly, and at church, after the candlelighting, everyone was coming to say I did a nice job," she said.



YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING "sisters" Lisa Vanderberg (left) and Wilma Vorwerk as they lighted Advent candles to usher in the Christmas season. (Evert photo)



League Will Hear 6 School Officials

Six school administrators from Northville and Plymouth have been invited to form a panel to discuss education at a holiday tea Thursday, Dec. 16, at 1 p.m.

The tea will be sponsored by the Northville-Plymouth League of Women Voters and will be held in St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth.

REPRESENTING Plymouth will be James Rossman, the superintendent; and John Hoben and Melvin Blunk, assistant superintendents. Northville will be represented by Raymond Speer, the superintendent; Florence Panatoni, the director of instruction; and Earl Busard, director of business administration.

The panel will be asked whether the shift from local to state collection of taxes would affect local school control. "What changes would you anticipate in your local

district as a result of this shift?"

In the second half of the program, the panel will split into discussion groups representing the two communities and will talk about local education.

THE LEAGUE recently completed a survey of the two school districts and the questions will be based on this survey.

Baby sitting is available at 12:45 p.m. at the home of Mrs. William McAninch, 539 S. Sheldon. Questions about the league may be directed to Mrs. Charles Ayers, 511 Reed, Northville.

Workshop

A green workshop is scheduled by the Mayflower Garden Club at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, in the home of Mrs. Stuart Oldford, 9263 Morrison, Plymouth. Ruth Quinn will be co-hostess.

Calls To Ring Holiday Cheer

Radioman second class David Reichert of the U.S. Navy will get a Christmas Eve telephone call from his Livonia family to help him celebrate his 24th birthday in Bermuda.

The Westland parents of Sp 4 David D. Marshall, serving as a helicopter pilot and gunner in Vietnam, and seven of his nine brothers and sisters will crowd around a telephone to talk to him during the holidays.

Mrs. Wilma Baxter, a Westland bride of eight months, will have a Christmas talk with her Vietnam-based husband, Sp/4 William Baxter.

THEY'RE AMONG seven Observerland families who won holiday telephone calls to their servicemen through the "Hi Mom" contest sponsored by Local 4015 of the Communications Workers of America.

The names were drawn Saturday in the Mayflower Hotel in Plymouth by State Senator Carl Pursell.

On hand for the drawing were James Budoff, of Livonia, president of Local 4015; Melinda McKernan of Plymouth, vice-president; Robert Hicks of Livonia, chairman of the "Hi Mom" project; and Bonnie Larrick of Plymouth, a member of her committee.

Other area winners in the drawing are Mrs. Jerry Brown of Plymouth, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stringer of Garden City, and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Anderson of Garden City.

SP/4 PATRICK G. BROWN.



MRS. JERRY BROWN of Plymouth dashes off a note to her son, Patrick, to let him know the family will be telephoning him in Vietnam this Christmas. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

serving with the Army's preventive medicine unit in downtown Saigon, will be at the other end of the line when his parents, brothers and sister gather around the telephone for their call.

The serviceman, a graduate of Plymouth High School and Michigan State University, has been in Vietnam since September and expects to return next September. His job is checking food and water supplies in places GIs visit.

"I'm trying to figure out a time that will be good for him to talk to us," Mrs. Brown said. Joining in the con-

versation, along with Mr. and Mrs. Brown, will be brothers Tim and Kevin, students at Lawrence University in Wisconsin and Ohio Wesleyan, respectively, and sister Cindy, a Plymouth High sophomore.

"THERE ARE THREE of us here, so I guess we'll just say 'Hi,'" said Mrs. Stringer in contemplating the call to her son, PFC Rex Stringer, stationed on Okinawa.

He has been in the Army's Finance Service Center there since last summer and expects to remain until his time in the Army is completed Jan. 13, 1973.

"CHRISTMAS EVE is his birthday and very special, so we're delighted to get the chance to call him," said Mrs. James Hicks Jr. of her brother, Radioman Reichert. She and her mother, Mrs. Shirley Thelen of Westland, will be at the stateless end of the Bermuda call to the Franklin High graduate.

"He re-enlisted in the Navy, and we haven't seen him for more than a year," Mrs. Hicks added.

SP/4 Marshall is one of 10 children of Mr. and Mrs. William Marshall of Westland.

Toys And Clothing Are Welcomed By Hospitals

Instead of sending Christmas cards, workers in many area plants use the money to help make Christmas brighter for the residents of the Plymouth State Home, according to the community relations director, Peter Schweitzer.

Schweitzer, Louis J. Schuldt, director of the community relations at the Northville State Hospital, and Ted A. Panaretos of the Pontiac State Hospital are receiving many calls these days from individuals and organizations interested in sharing Christmas with others.

All have compiled guidelines for Christmas shoppers.

THE PLYMOUTH HOME welcomes gifts of both new and used toys, but the used toys must be in good repair. "We don't have any way of repairing them," says Schweitzer.

Metal toys and toys with parts that could break off easily cannot be accepted for safety reasons.

Baseballs, footballs, shoe type roller skates, ice skates, sleds, bats and gloves are popular gifts.

Wash and wear clothing up to adult size is also appreciated, but the home cannot take underwear or shoes.

There is also a need for cosmetics and grooming aids of all types.

Schweitzer said that financial donations are put into a fund from which all programs draw for field trips, parties and equipment not covered in the institution's budget.

All gifts should be taken to the home unwrapped as the program director of each building looks them over and decides what he wants for the residents of his building.

They may be delivered to the switchboard of the home, 15480 Sheldon Road, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

AT THE NORTHVILLE Hospital, 4101 West Seven Mile, nursing staff members and the family care coor-

dinator have compiled lists of patients with two or three of their Christmas wishes for interested individuals and groups.

Letters of inquiry are welcome, said Schuldt. He also said that the greater number of patients will be home for Christmas or relatives will bring gifts to them a few days before the holiday.

The Pontiac State Hospital has issued a list of suggested items for its 1,500 patients. These include Christmas cards, stamps and ward decorations, gift wrapping paper, ribbons, scotch tape, as well as clothing, jewelry, sewing materials, cigarettes, parlor games and toys. All clothing should be washable.

Panaretos stresses that all gifts should be new. It could be demoralizing to a patient to find a used gift under the tree Christmas morning.

The hospital also prefers to receive the gifts unwrapped with the wrapping paper included. No glass containers should be sent.



MRS. GERALDINE FEHRIN of Plymouth is a china painter who also enjoys other craft work. Here she holds up one of the decorative dolls she dressed to make festive table arrangements for the Northville Springs China Painters annual Christmas luncheon. She also is holding some of the Christmas tree ornaments made by members as favors for the party. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

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