

FRENCH COUPLE NOW AMERICANS

'But Grandma, You're Parisian!

By EVELINE OEN
Arts Editor

With perhaps a slightly different pride, a slightly different confidence, will two Birmingham residents face the new year—the first as American citizens.

"We decided to become citizens when our daughter was married, said Mrs. Jean Autechaud of 645 Parry, The Autechauds, who live at 645

Parry, Birmingham, came to this country from Paris, France, in 1952. Their daughter (and only child) was married in France on Liberation Day to Joseph Mercier, then an American GI—the last one to be received and aided by the Autechauds.

THE MERCHANTS and their four children—Joseph, 15; Diane, 12; Patricia, 9; and Michael, 4, who are

the "raison d'être" of their grandparents—live on Buckingham Road in Birmingham.

When she told one of her grandchildren that she had become an American, she said, "the granddaughter replied: 'Oh, Grandma, you will always be Parisian!'"

"No, no. I am now an American," Mrs. Autechaud objected. "But you will always have your

accent, Grandma," the granddaughter insisted.

IN THEIR apartment, the Autechauds have "a bit of France." Most of their furniture dates back to 1643 and comes from a castle belonging to Mrs. Autechaud's great-great-grandfather, Theophile Corret de la Tour d'Auvergne, once commander-in-chief of the armies of Napoleon.

Downstairs, in the basement, are set up tables with checkered tablecloths (not unlike a sidewalk cafe) where children come to learn to sing, laugh and speak French.

BOTH MR. and Mrs. Autechaud teach French to various groups in various places in the area. Mrs. Autechaud has taught fourth, fifth and sixth grade children at Brookside for two years. She also is teaching four evening adult education courses in French at Seaborn High School.

Autechaud last year taught at M.T.C. He also teaches adult education courses at Seaborn and at the Village Woman's Club.

When asked what their plans for the future were, Autechaud answered quickly, "to continue to teach French until we die."

"In that way we will work for two countries at the same time," his wife added.



PROUD OF the "artifacts" of their newly adopted country are Mr. and Mrs. Jean Autechaud of 645 Parry, Birmingham. With flag in hand Mrs. Autechaud takes another look at the citizenship papers she and her husband received Dec. 4.

Santa's Bread 'n Butter Letter Addressed to Area Children

My dear little friends: I want to tell you about a stunt that Radolph—he's the red-nosed reindeer, you know—did that would have made anyone else but me angry.

Rudy was nosing around our mail department one day and knocked our letters all over the floor. Then, instead of calling one of the elves to help him, he started pawing through the pile and we think some of them got stuck on his horns.

AT ANY rate, while I was taking inventory, I found a few letters that I didn't get to send to The Eccentric to print so I thought I'd just drop you a line (even if it is a bit late) and explain. After all, I have my weaknesses too and I do like to see my correspondents' printed in the letter newspapers.

One reason for this is the charm, the sincerity and the sometimes devastating honesty that one finds in your notes to me. I just can't be selfish and keep your wonderful messages to myself. Besides, they look nice in my press file.

WELL, ANYWAY, about those letters.

I received one from Jamie Cruise over your way and he not only sent me his list but reminded me of his baby sister so of course I filled his stocking with lots of things that he wanted.

Jamie and John R. forgot to write his last name but of course I knew him well) and Holly Bohfeld all sent me drawings that made me feel ever so "Christ-massy."

Holly's "milk, that's a lovely name) list was very neatly written and she sent me some nice kisses and hugs which I'm saving for next winter.

John R. sent me a thank-you note along with his list and I think that proves just how much faith you children have.

Which reminds me of a note from Tommy.

I SUSPECT he wrote on a sheet of paper from his daddy's office desk and it has a wonderful motto on it—one quite similar to mine: John's motto read, "You have to believe in happiness or happiness never comes. You have to believe."

It was written by a Douglas Malloch, one of my best helpers.

I liked the letters from Carol Joy Harvey and Janet and another little girl whose name is a secret between just the two of us.

Another Miss "X" is just learn-

ing to write but her stationery was awfully pretty and two of my special friends, Leslie Furney and Del, said "sure I'll translate their requests which were nicely illustrated."

RICKY LEVINSON who's five years old does the best printing you ever saw so I didn't have to go out my quill board to decide what to put in his stocking. Ricky and Debbie and Laurie (her daddy and I are great friends, especially since he's been managing editor of The Eccentric) all told me they had been good—as if I didn't know.

Katie K. Alfs and Ed and Tom and Bobby Franchavilla and Mary Louise Burell and Barbara Myers and Robin Howe and Paul W. wrote very organized letters to make sure I'd get the orders just right.

ONE OF THE most honest letters I ever got in my mail came from John Rexford who said he'd "been a good boy all year but bad, too" so I gave him one of my best stockings. Another one who leveled with me was Tiger Yates. He lives at a new address which we had marked beforehand with invisible signs.

Tiger's letter was sort of special. I thought, because he asked for a copy to open his bank so he could count his money. He asked me to bring Chris a noisy toy gun—not too heavy cause he hits people with things and he's not even two years old yet.

(See CHILDREN, 4-D)

Cultural Events

Sunday, December 30
ART—Last day of the fifth annual Bloomfield Art Association Members' Show at the Birmingham Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham. Hours: 2-5 p.m.

Monday, December 31
IMAGE OF PHYSICS—Last day of "The Image of Physics" exhibit of a photographic study of a series of experiments in physics by Bernice Abbott at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE—Duplicate Bridge at 7:45 p.m. at the Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. Open to the public.

Tuesday, January 1
NEW YEARS DAY
ECCLIASTICAL ART—Outstanding examples of ecclesiastical art from the old and new worlds on exhibit daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m., except during services at the Christ Church Cranbrook, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

COMMUNION—Communion Service at 10 a.m. at the Christ Church Cranbrook, Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Wednesday, January 2
CRANBROOK—January exhibits at Cranbrook Institute of Science will include "Tapa, Tribes and Trees," "The Cycle of Life," "A Model of DNA," "Mushrooms, Some Are Safe—Some Which," "Principles of Optics," "Fiber Optics," "The Land Color Theory" and "Phantom Image." Open daily 2-5 p.m. Free week days. Admission charge on weekends. Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

ACADEMY OF ART—Paintings, sculpture and ceramics from the permanent collection will be on exhibit throughout January at the Cranbrook Academy of Art galleries, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Open daily except Mondays, 2-5 p.m. Admission charge.

YOUNG PEOPLES ART—"North American Indian Art" exhibit at the Cranbrook Young People's Art Center Gallery, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. School tours by appointment.

(See CULTURAL EVENTS, 4-D)

BOTH FEEL that the French government has acquired a marvelous stability both through support and one of leadership.

Gen. Charles DeGaulle. Both think the future of France lies in their new constitution and DeGaulle.

Autechaud thought that the most important problem presently facing us is "to maintain the peace."

"And to maintain the peace," he added, "you must be strong—and you must not be scared."

PEERING FURTHER, he said he thinks China will be the problem of the future and that he thinks Russia is afraid of China.

"One day Russia will be very close to the free world in order to fight China," he said.

And what, exactly does his new citizenship mean to them?

"It enables us to become really a part of your country and close to the children, the people we teach. Now we feel really at home," they answered.

Children Win Annual Art Contest Prizes

Christmas carols, Santa and his elves, peace on earth, and gifts on the birthday of Christ, were the and lighted buildings. As a top winner, Harriet received a wrist watch from telephone company and has her drawing appearing in full color in the December issue of the party's employee magazine.

Harriet is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart of 509 Pierre St., Birmingham. She attends Baldwin School.

TWO OTHER fifth graders have received Merit Award certification for their entries.

Susan Schroeder, daughter of illustration consisted of nine carols in gay colored outfits, a multi-

(See CONTEST, 2-D)

BRIDGE in BIRMINGHAM

By BUD MAYBAUM
Southern Michigan Bridge Association

One of the interesting events in bridge for the Birmingham area is the inter-city team of four matches provided by Southern Michigan Bridge Association.

These matches are intended for social purposes and are played in the homes. Each member of the winning team receives a half a mader point for each match. They are arranged so that each team is host for five matches and are guests for five.

Many of these inter-city teams will also enter the knock-out tournament that starts the last week in February. However, if you do not have a team for the inter-city, you may arrange a team for the knock-out tournament. In this tournament, each team will have to lose two matches before being knocked out. The winning team will receive expenses to a national or regional tournament and the winner of the flight "B" will receive partial expenses.

DR. AND MRS. Lutz from the Birmingham area do have a team in the inter-city tournament and

played today's hand as defenders while their Captain, Fred Canaday, played the hand the other direction. South and North vulnerable. South is dealer.

NORTH
♠ K J 9 7
♥ 8 3
♦ A K 7
♣ J 5 3

WEST (Dr. Lutz)
♠ 8 3
♥ A 4
♦ Q 8 6 5
♣ K Q 8 4

EAST (Mrs. Lutz)
♠ Q 10 9 4 2
♥ K J 5 2
♦ 2
♣ 9 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A 5
♥ Q 10 7 6
♦ J 10 4 3
♣ A 10 6

The bidding:
South pass West North East
pass pass 1 ♠ pass
2 ♣ 2 ♣

I cannot recommend the bidding of this hand, as South had a better response of two clubs, a Drury bid, which would have bid two diamonds, and they would have arrived at the two no trump contract that was arrived at by Fred Canaday, and was made.

DR. LUTZ opened with the king (See BRIDGE, 2-D)

Behind the Welcome Mat

by CORINNE ABATT

There was a newspaper story a couple of weeks ago which stated that Michigan's warm fall followed by a blanket of snow is exactly what was needed to improve our lakes—raise the water level and create more desirable fishing and boating.

What is this heartwarming fact in mind a few of us reappraised the frigid outdoors and came up with some ideas in his favor.

For one thing, sparkly snow is the "most" in backdrops for Christmas decorations. The lovely spruce across the street strung with miniature lights gives our children much pleasure. Framed by swirling snow, it is a thing of great beauty.

AFTER A DAY of driving and

trudging through the snow, one comes home with a strange feeling of satisfaction of having fought the elements and come safely through the battle.

Several of us walked the long walk downtown—striding down the side of Euclid Avenue, a main thoroughfare into the heart of the city. It was almost as if the whole world was silent and Mother Nature had called "time" on the noise. It was a very exhilarating experience.

And so in the midst of skidding wheels, stalled cars, chilled fingers and snow-sloped hallways, I remember the silent city.

FROM 16TH century England comes the familiar adage: It is an ill wind that blows none to good.

And on to things less chilling. Neighbor, George Hiltner, is responsible for this helpful hint. Discarded nylon stockings make excellent paint strippers. Lots of folks think they're fine for tying plants like tomatoes to stakes and most Moms have odd nylons for stuffing soft toys and doll pillows.

Think of it this way: a flight of stairs is really nothing more than a do-it-yourself escalator.

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
December 27, 1962 Sec. D

Potpourri

by JULIE CANDLER
Special Writer



His first book has been out only 10 days, and already Tony Spina has a contract for a second volume.

When I called him last Thursday, the good-natured Mr. Spina said the new contract was in the mail. The sender is A. S. Barnes and Co. of New York and London, publishers of Tony's current "The Making of a Pope."

The contract calls for a new volume of 100 pictures and copy, based on Tony's latest photographic pilgrimage to Rome, covering the Ecumenical Conference for the Detroit Free Press. Tony is preparing the book for publication before the conference opens its second session next September.

Spina, his vivacious wife and their children live at 3525 Squirrel Road, Bloomfield Township. As the paper's chief photographer, Spina covered the election and investiture of Pope John. The lensman squeezed pageantry and solemn splendor into a 35 millimeter camera, then splashed them onto photographic panoramas. His pictures tell the story in a living liturgy of black and white details.

Tony is justifiably proud of setting a record Dec. 17 at an autographing party in Detroit. He signed his name to over 200 of his 142-page volumes.

"The only author to come close to that previously," says Tony, "was Joan Crawford. And she only signed 150 copies of her book!"

"I FELT JUST like a stage door Johnnie," says Don Selner of Wilson Drug, speaking of a visit backstage recently after Paul Paray's final Detroit Symphony concert.

Don and Mrs. Selner paid their backstage visit to their friend Jane Hobson, vocalist who performed with the orchestra that final night. The talented singer was the week-end guest at the Selners' home on Inkster Road, Walnut Lake.

Don says anyone who heard the cheering and clapping that night for Paray will never forget it. The final ovation was like thunder in stereo.

Paul Paray belongs in Potpourri, Don thinks, because the two sound alike.

It was all play and no work last week—and about time—for the girls in the AAUW Children's Theatre group.

These unsung heroines dance, paint scenery, make costumes and turn themselves into witches and clowns and toy soldiers to delight Birmingham area school children.

They perform well, using excellent timing. After 19 years of experience, they know just what will get a response from a young audience.

Mrs. Marvin Marsh of Beverly Hills says, "When I applied for membership in the group, I thought it would be just a bunch of amateurs. But they're all so talented!"

Last week the group played by Christmas-partying at the home of Mrs. Michael Remondino on Westchester Way. (She plays the piano, acts like a dream and runs a production line of beautiful costumes off a swingin' sewing machine.)

Potpourri would like to present each of the group a Christmas Oscar for her hot work. The only reward (See POTPOURRI, 2-D)

TAX SALE

GENERAL ELECTRIC APPLIANCES AND TV AT ABSOLUTE ROCK BOTTOM PRICES

We must pay property tax on every item still in our stock at the end of December. Nobody likes to pay taxes, ourselves included. We would much rather pass the savings on to you.

Come in before January 1 and we will give you the buy of a lifetime. The selection is a little slim — but prices have never been lower . . . and never will be lower.

Come in and make us an offer. We are wheeling and dealing.

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