

# NEWS OF THE SCHOOLS

IN HOME LANDS

## Groves Exchange Students Relate Holiday Traditions

By KEN ZIMMERMAN  
Special Writer

Seasonal holidays are celebrated in many different ways throughout the world. Groves' three AFS foreign exchange students, Ricky Mohra of India, Rob Kelly of Scotland and Joachim Turoff of West Germany, tell how they commemorate their wintertime festivities.

One of the most widely celebrated holidays in Ricky's country is Diwali. This means the festival of lights, as light is a symbol of happiness and joy. It is equal in importance to our Christmas.

Candles are specially purchased for this occasion and the people exchange various candies with one another. Prayers are said in their homes and in the temples in recognition of this holiday.

AS DIVALIS meaning implies, lights symbolize it. Therefore, houses are brightly lighted by means of candles or electricity. Also a fireworks display at night is given, which is one of this festival's most popular events.

Another wintertime holiday in India is called Tikka, which is held two days after Diwali. Its main feature is that a sister makes a paste consisting of saffron and rice, and from this puts a small mark on her brother's forehead to show her love. She also gives her brother some candy. In return, the brother gives his sister a present to show his affection.

Ricky, who is Hindu, does not celebrate Christmas in her native land. However, she is familiar with this holiday because her Christian neighbors in India celebrate it.

Rob Kelly tells that in Scotland there is a tradition which is known as Hogmanay. This is similar to the New Year's activities celebrated in our country.

Around 8 p.m. the bonafide celebration begins, in the form of parties and festive gatherings. Robert Burns' song "Auld Lang Syne," which originated in Scotland, is their most popular song at Hogmanay. As they say in Scotland, Hogmanay lasts till "two sma' hours."

TO ADD to the Hogmanay celebration, the British Broadcasting Corporation has a special New Year's program in Scotland from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Two prominent traditions go with the Scottish Hogmanay. First of all, no new calendars are put up until the new year begins. Second, is "first-footing." In Scotland most people will try to celebrate the entry into the New Year at home with their family. Then after midnight the people visit their neighbors, and "put their foot across their neighbor's doorstep," as the expression goes. Gifts are then exchanged.

It is believed to be good luck if the "first-footer" is tall and has dark hair. This tradition has been elaborated until now people take small pieces of coal into the people's houses as a token of good luck.

The Scottish Christmas is very similar to Christmas in the United States. It is a day when the family is all together to exchange presents. Families attend church on Christmas Eve, and according to Rob, the services are very effective, in the medieval atmosphere of the old stone churches.

"BOXING DAY" is held the day following Christmas. In this, boxes are placed in public places to collect money for the poor. Joachim pointed out that West Germany had several wintertime customs. One is the celebration of the first four Sundays preceding Christmas. On each of these Sundays a candle is lighted and placed on a fir or spruce wreath. This custom symbolizes peace and happiness.

The Feast of the Holy Barbara is held on Dec. 4. On this day people go to their gardens, cut a branch of a tree and place it in warm water. Within 20 days leaves come out, and sometimes blossoms appear. This signifies the birth of Christ.

Then on Dec. 6 Nikolaus Day is celebrated. Santa Claus arrives on this day to leave small presents for the children, although Christmas is celebrated on Dec. 25.

On Christmas Eve everyone gets a half day off, working only until 4 p.m. Families go to church at 5 p.m., then exchange presents in the evening.

CANDLES, BELLS and Christmas trees with glass ornaments decorate the homes in Germany, with gingerbread being the most popular Yuletide food. An interesting note is that the idea of the Christmas trees first came from Germany.

## Area Students Attend Holiday Lecture Series

Ten area high school students attended the 1964 Holiday Lecture Series on the subject of the Engineering Society of Detroit.

They were: Ed Bayer, 6873 E. Kinross Ct., East Warren, 1970 Evergreen, of Wylie E. Groves High School; James Kastely, 1029 Flon, Tom Hopkins, 4732 Pickering Rd., of Brother Rice High School; Gail Lift, 4718 Groveland, Barbara Udy, 24175 Lee Baker, of Marian High School; Adrienne Saccapanni, 9901 Artesian, Margery Abkin, 245 Guldord Rd., of Academy of the Sacred Heart; John L. McKenzie, 5856 Wingcroft Ct., Robin Tribble, 872 Dunesy St., Bloomfield Hills High School.

NOTED ASTRONOMER J. Alton Hynek, addressed the more than 700 Detroit area junior and senior high school students and 200 scientists.

Professor Hynek, chairman of the department of astronomy at Northwestern University gave a lecture on "Our Place in Space" and "Satellite Missions to Mars."

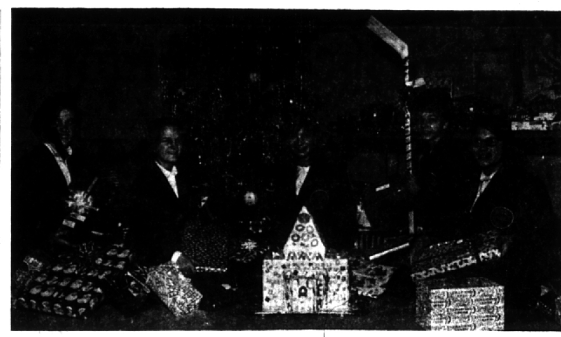
## Top Student Combines Sports With Leadership

By DICK SWANEY  
Teen Consultant

Jim Bailey is held in high regard by his fellow students and teachers at Cranbrook. Jim holds the position of head prefect, which is considered one of the top honors a boy can achieve at this school. He is an extremely hard working student and has involved himself in a wide variety of activities during his five years of attendance.

Jim is a member of the Innerborough Council, Student Cabinet, A. F. S. Club and is vice president of the Varsity Club. Jim also has exceptional ability in athletics. He is a fine hurdler on the track squad, an excellent center on the basketball team and an outstanding goalkender on the soccer squad. His leadership ability is shown by his selection as captain for this year by his basketball team mates. His 6 feet 6 inch height and his fine coordination have enabled him to lead the Cranes in rebounding and scoring so far this season.

DURING the summer of 1964, Jim had the opportunity of spending his vacation in Bavaria, Germany on the A. F. S. program. He



## Girls Give Rather Than Receive

More than 200 gifts were delivered to the Hawthorne Center at Northville because of the year-long fund-raising activities of the year-long fund-raising activities of the Big Les Domeses, a student-wide group at Bloomfield Country Day School for Girls. Shown with just a few of the gaily-wrapped presents are (from left) Nora Koskinen, president; Dottie Wilson, junior; Patty

Richter, senior; Sharon Barridge, ninth grade; and Sally Barridge, ninth grade; and Sally Richardson, seventh-eighth grade. Biggest fund-raiser was the Bads' Dinner, where the \$200 profit went to provide such items as hockey sticks and bracelets, model cars and Beate Records, games of chess and mystery books.

## Naval Training Ends for Recruit

Seaman Recruit William F. Driver, Jr., USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Driver of 2504 Comfort Dr., Birmingham, graduated Nov. 27 from recruit training at the Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif. He learned basic military law, customs and etiquette, seamanship, and a basic knowledge of shipboard routine. Also included in the training was extensive military drill, first aid, swimming, water survival tactics, and physical fitness.



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## Present Essay Awards To Barnum Students

By AMY KELL  
Special Writer

Seventeen students have had essays accepted for publications in the annual anthology of the National Essay Press. Students receiving certificates are Tony Wise, Mason Yu, Abby Knowlton, Emily Casner, Shirl Funston, Delia Cecil, Robert Sigler, Bruce Purvis, Walter McCarthy, Pat Rider, Rita Swatman, Janet Wagner, Susan Turner and Janet Mary. The anthology will be published in January.

Miss Mary Scott took Frank Srell, Dodie Macted, Linda Frost, Kelly Phelps, Barb Heyer, Ann Werner, Kathy Penman, Carol Nesbitt, Mel Tobin, Lynn Rodney, Sue Saiger, Connie Cutting and Jan Riedel to Oakland University for a basketball and volleyball tournament December 19.

Barnum tied for the losers' division. They especially enjoyed a half hour's swimming in the Oakland University pool after the meet.

BARNUM WON an exciting swim meet with Kimball last week. The score was 5 to 3. The following are the names of the boys who participated in the events:

First came the 50-yard freestyle with 8th and 9th graders participating. Ron Clapham and John Gieggle represented these grades. The second event was the 50-yard butterfly with 9th graders Blair Rodney and Andy Meyers representing their group.

Bob Baker and Rick Thistle took part in the third event, the backstroke. Mark Kraetzer and

## Early Deadlines Next Issue

Offices of the Birmingham Eccentric will be closed on New Year's Day, Jan. 1. They will be open, however, on Saturday, Jan. 2.

Because of the holiday, early deadlines will be observed. Therefore, all advertisers and news contributors are asked to submit their copy as early as possible for the Jan. 7 issue.

The Birmingham Eccentric extends the greetings of the season to everyone.



JIM BAILEY recalls it as a wonderful experience. Jim maintains a solid B average in his college preparatory studies. Upon graduation next June he has Harvard College in mind for his further education. After a basic liberal arts education he would like to concentrate in either the field of business or law. Jim is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Esel W. Bailey, Garden City.

Tobin Rote took part in the 100-yard freestyle. After that came the 50-yard breaststroke with Bob Phillips and Dave Emmett.

When these five events were finished, diving came next. Our divers, Bruce Purvis and Todd Menz, performed different dives ranging from easy to difficult. Andy Meyers and Tobin Rote placed.

(MORE SCHOOL NEWS ON 6-B)

IN THE relay medley Blair Rodney, Dave Emmett, Bob Baker and Chris Tassio performed. The last event was the 200-yard freestyle with Craig Bradley, Rick Thistle, Lee Wandel and Brad Comb.

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