

RapAround

Joan M. Smith, Editor

ND Graduate Returns From Year in Australia

By Martin Toombs

Elmira — After a year living "down under," Notre Dame High School graduate Mary Beth Hain has returned to her Elmira home a different person than when she left, and with a deeper appreciation for life in the U.S.

Mary Beth graduated early from Notre Dame last January, and left immediately for Sidney, Australia, through a \$3,000 fellowship she won in a competition sponsored by the Corning Glass Works Foundation. She spent a year in Sidney, living with a local family and attending school, returning just before Christmas.

She had expected Australia to be much like the U.S., but was surprised. The people speak English, but they and their culture and society were quite different, Mary Beth reported.

For one, she noted, the



MARY BETH HAIN

Australians "have no patriotism." She explained that they don't identify strongly with their country as most Americans do, possibly because so many are recent immigrants.

The same perspective applies to school sports, she

noted. What sports teams a school has seldom practice, and are never the cause for school pep rallies. The students who seriously participate in sports, primarily soccer and rugby, play for teams not connected with their school.

While in Sidney she attended a girls' school's "fifth form," which would compare with the junior year in high school here. They didn't put her in the sixth form, or 12th year, because it would be too much work, she explained.

"I didn't care for their school system very much," she commented, noting that most students leave school after the 10th year, with only the college-bound staying on for two more years of intensive study, with workloads much heavier than American high school seniors.

Mary Beth valued the opportunities to become acquainted with the many people she met during the year, both Australians and others who were traveling. She noted that she is expecting a visit from a "sister" in her host family and a couple friends later this year.

Australians are informed about the U.S., she said, and people often asked her opinion of the elections. There are several American television shows shown there, she said, and the movies in the theaters are all American.

During the year she made two trips, one to the "Outback," where she lived for a time with the Aborigines, and another to the Great Barrier Reef. She said that she "loved" the trips, and especially appreciated the undeveloped countryside, where the "scenery is just fantastic." She pointed out that the country, about the size of the continental United States, has just 14 million residents, fewer than New York State. There are large areas which "have not been touched by man," she said.

Traveling below the equator meant that Mary Beth left Elmira in the dead of winter and arrived in Sidney in the summer. She noted that it was summertime when she left in December, and she was having trouble adjusting to the cold.

She also reported another problem caused by the Sidney

University in Chicago in September, possibly studying journalism.

grew a lot, changed a lot during the year, Mary Beth said, adding that the experience improved her assessment of life in the U.S. She also stated that after living in another country with another family, "you start appreciating your parents a lot."

RPO Schedules Spring Concerts

With the recent deep freeze here in Rochester, spring seems like a long way off. But it will arrive and with it the third in a series of elementary school educational concerts given by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Isaiah Jackson. These concerts are for 5th, 6th and 7th graders and will be performed May 27, 28, and 29. All area elementary schools are invited to participate.

According to information received from the RPO Women's Committee, Golden Arrow Bus Line is available to those schools having a contract with the line for approximately \$50 per bus. If

a school desires a Golden Arrow bus they can make arrangements by calling Nan Johnson at Golden Arrow, 674-030. City schools must arrange for Golden Arrow transportation through the City School Transportation Office.

In order to have the students become familiar with the music they will hear, there will be a mailing of the Series III program at a later date. All concerts begin at 10 a.m. and end at 11 a.m.

Schools interested in further information may contact Mrs. Robert Horn, 342-3565, or Audrey Beck at the Women's Committee Office, 454-2620.



Ministry Action

Stan Zawacki talks with Patty Rinehart after he addressed her St. Agnes theology class on prison ministry. Zawacki is actively engaged with the Cephias group at Attica and with the Corpus Christi project for a halfway house. He is a candidate for the permanent diaconate.

Club Develops Skills

Under the direction of Ms. Adelita Chirino, a Backgammon League, formed at Nazareth last year, meets Mondays from 2:30 to 4:50 p.m. The members, which include students from Aquinas, play five to ten games at each session and note their progress on a chart. The aim of the league is to give students a worthwhile hobby to pursue throughout their lifetimes, as well as to provide an opportunity to develop a social skill.

On The Go

- BISHOP KEARNEY**
 - Thursday, Jan. 15 — Mothers' Club meeting.
 - Friday, Jan. 16 — End of first semester.
 - Saturday, Jan. 17 — Make-up entrance exam for 8th graders at Aquinas; Freshman Girls' Night.
 - Tuesday, Jan. 20 — Mid-term exams, dismissal, 1:30 p.m.; Parents' Club mailing.
- CARDINAL MOONEY**
 - Thursday, Jan. 15 — Junior and senior girls

- retreat; Entity Scholarship Night, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 16 — Faculty meeting.
- Saturday, Jan. 17 — Make-up entrance exam at Aquinas; Men's Guild Ladies Night.
- Wednesday, Jan. 21 — Regents exams begin.
- NAZARETH**
 - Thursday, Jan. 15 — Martin Luther King assembly.
 - Friday, Jan. 16 — Martin Luther King Day.

- Saturday, Jan. 17 — Make-up entrance exam at Aquinas.
- Monday, Jan. 19 — Exams begin.
- Tuesday, Jan. 20 — February dates due; department meetings.
- OUR LADY OF MERCY**
 - Friday, Jan. 18 — Winter Concert, 3 p.m.
 - Jan. 14-19 — Yearbook Patron Drive in progress.
 - Jan. 19-23 — Sophomore retreat.



Winners Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following our publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at Bishop Kearney at the junior ring ceremony. The person circled should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, 114 South Union St., by noon, Tuesday, Jan. 20 to receive \$5.

NHS Induction Ceremonies Planned

Nazareth Academy National Honor Society officers are planning the induction of new members. The traditional candlelight ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 25. Juniors from the top 15 percent of the class will be selected for their excellence in scholarship, leadership, character and service. These students are then rated by the faculty on these attributes and then are invited to join this organization.

NHS as juniors. Honor Society members will also volunteer their study hall time to be school receptionists. The

organization also sponsors an annual College Bowl and an honor assembly at the end of the year.



NHS officers are: Rosa Solano, vice president; Lori Zimmer, treasurer; Margy Jones, secretary; Sue Whalen, president.