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Joan M. Smith, Editor

# A Family Project Creates a Wildlife Refuge

By Joan M. Smith

Steve Campo's backyard is for the birds! More than 100 of them reside in the one-acre yard in Greece that the Campo family has landscaped into an oriental setting with large and small ponds, complete with bridges, exotic foliage and waterfalls.

The 14-year project started, said Steve who is a senior at Cardinal Mooney High School, when his mother decided to show him and his sisters and brother that eggs didn't come from a store carton. The two ducks purchased for the lesson were the forerunners of the menagerie that now includes swans, peacocks, fan-tailed pigeons, Canada geese, and chickens.

According to Steve, the property has been designated a wildlife refuge by the National Wildlife Federation, and no wonder. Bed and board are provided, as well as warm housing, 300 lbs. a week of various feed necessary for individual palates and needs, and infirmaries for the sick. There have been tragedies in the paradise. Stray dogs scale the fences and cause damage. Once, a St. Bernard invaded the premises and destroyed a pair of swans. A few years ago a virus swept through the



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feathered community. Despite these rare incidents, word of the refuge has spread. The Campos are now hosts to wild ducks who flock down every evening for their nightly respite.

The next visitors the family hopes to welcome are Canada geese. There are three of them in residence now — Sgt. Preston, Punuck (Eskimo name), and their gosling, Georgie. It is through Georgie that the Campos intend to bring the geese in for visits. Georgie is free to join the migrating flocks and when he does it is expected he will use the refuge for a stop-over and bring his family. So far,

however, Georgie hasn't shown an inclination to leave. "Guess he's found a home," laughed Steve.

It takes more than a knowledge of breeding and feeding methods to run a refuge. It also demands catering to the temperaments and preferences of the different species. For instance, the Australian black swans, Sydney and Matilda, are more aggressive than Serena and Sebastian, the American domestic swans; thus the need for two large ponds to keep them separated.

The peacocks posed a problem in the beginning with their high-pitched screeching that caused some consternation in the neighborhood. "Their screech sounds like a woman screaming for help," explained Steve. Now that the peacocks are nearing maturity they have calmed down and are expected to start fanning their exotic tail plummages this spring.

It isn't all take on the part of the birds. They supply the Campo household with eggs — one goose egg, said Steve, feeds the entire family for breakfast. Birds and garden have been used as background for many bridal pictures, and two white fan-tailed doves lent their beauty to the Cardinal Mooney Christmas Mass this year.

Besides working with wildlife, Steve is active in school drama. He will appear in Mooney's presentation of "My Fair Lady" in May. Also, he and his sister Kristan, a freshman at Mooney, own horses and ride them in various shows.

The birds have had an impact on Steve's future plans. His father is a dentist, and dentistry has been a career idea of Steve's for a long time. Lately however, he's been giving thoughts to veterinary medicine.

In discussing the time and effort needed in caring for the birds, Steve said, "Sometimes it's tedious work but I enjoy it, specially in the summer. I like to go out at night and hear the different noises they make."



Photos by Joan M. Smith

Bishop Matthew H. Clark becomes acquainted with one of the curious doves.



Ameffko Geuka addresses members of the Black Student Union.

## Speaker Stresses The Importance Of Black Identity

Ameffko Geuka recently addressed a meeting of Black Students Union (BSU) at Nazareth Academy. Geuka, who interprets his role as one of strengthening young peoples' pride in who they are, was involved in the Pan African Cultural Exposition held last summer in Toronto. A number of Nazareth students attended the event.

The theme of Geuka's speech was the importance of blacks taking pride in themselves as blacks, a pride rooted in their culture and history. When faced with a situation where blacks are singled out as being different, Geuka insisted that possessing a strong sense of self helps a member of a minority culture to confront such a situation without feeling powerless.

According to school

sources, he opposed the policy of busing as an injustice because blacks should not be uprooted from their environment. Rather, the neighborhoods in which black students live and learn should be improved.

He also offered suggestions on how to celebrate Black History Week in February. Students should commit themselves to a study of those individuals who worked for black independence. Biographies of blacks should be studied as an example for blacks today to continue the work and thus, become living history themselves. White students should also be involved in the study because the Abolitionist Movement was a joint effort on the part of blacks and whites to secure equality for blacks.

## A Justice Seminar

Bishop Kearney High School administrators and chairpersons attended an in-service workshop on peace and justice education early in January at the school.

Brother Donald Dwyer of the Eastern Province of the Christian Brothers and a member of the Religious Studies Department at Iona College presented ideas on what is meant by peace and justice education, the Church's social teachings that demand it, and how to go about implementing curricular changes that reflect peace and justice issues. An in-depth concentration on topics of global awareness of justice issues were shared through discussions and films.

## Topic: Teenagers

Dr. Dennis E. Boike will speak on Teenagers at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 10, at St. Agnes High School, 300 E. River Rd. The public is invited.

## Winner

Susan Stihler, a freshman at Nazareth Academy, was the recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of Jan. 21.



Guests preen at Mooney's Christmas festivities. The bird and garden projects have meant a family working together and because of that "we've developed good family relations," said Steve.

## On The Go

<p><b>BISHOP KEARNEY</b> Friday, Feb. 6 — No classes, ski holiday; parents' alumni social hour, cafeteria; forensics competition. Feb. 6-7 — Forensics tournament. Saturday, Feb. 7 — Winter weekend; forensics competition. Monday, Feb. 9 — PTA meeting, 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10 — Parents Club mailing. Wednesday, Feb. 11 — Senior Dress Down on Day.</p> <p><b>CARDINAL MOONEY</b> Feb. 5-6 — Sophomore retreat at Notre Dame in Canandaigua. Wednesday, Feb. 11 — PTA meetings, 7:30-9 p.m.</p> <p><b>DeSALES</b> Thursday, Feb. 5 — Parent/teacher interviews, 12:30-3:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Saturday Feb. 7 — Dundee Cheerleaders Tournament. Sunday, Feb. 8 — American Legion Oratorical</p>	<p>Contest, district finals. Monday, Feb. 9 — Board of Trustees meeting.</p> <p><b>McQUAID</b> Wednesday, Feb. 4 — Dismissal, 1:28 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 — Chuck Wagon hoe-down, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>NAZARETH</b> Thursday, Feb. 5 — Catholic Youth Organization speaker; PATON meeting, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6-7 — Forensics at Bishop Kearney High School, 9-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 — PATON dinner dance. Monday, Feb. 9 — Senior office typing students to hear CYO speaker. Tuesday, Feb. 10 — Department head meetings. Feb. 9-13 — Senior T-shirt sale. Wednesday, Feb. 11 — Class meetings.</p> <p><b>OUR LADY OF MERCY</b> Wednesday, Feb. 4 —</p>	<p>CAM meeting, 2:45 p.m.; CSMC meeting, 3 p.m.; Student Government meeting, 2:50 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9 — Administration Board meeting, 3 p.m.; Ski Club at Bristol, 3-9 p.m.; Board of Governors meeting, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10 — Faculty meeting, 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11 — CAM meeting, speaker from the Rochester Friendly Home, 2:45 p.m.; CSMC meeting, 3 p.m.; SGA meeting, 2:50 p.m.; junior candy sale ends; parent/teacher conferences, 7-9 p.m.</p> <p><b>ST. AGNES</b> Thursday, Feb. 5 — Aerobics class. Tuesday, Feb. 10 — Aerobics class; Parents Club speaker, Dennis E. Boike, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11 — National Institute for the Deaf presentation of "Sunshine Too."</p>
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