

English was a barrier at first

Hot time in Australia for Wischmeyer

Kent Wischmeyer had fun on his summer vacation. He was busy all December, January and February. That's when summer is in Australia, which is where

Wischmeyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wischmeyer, 4890 Schwegler Road, spent the past year as a Rotary Foreign Exchange student. He will be a senior this fall at

Cass City High School. He got back recently after staying with five different families in Perth, a city of 500,000 in western Australia. When he first stepped off

the plane in Australia, he said he was impressed by Australia's heat, even though it was August, the "winter" season. Temperatures hover

around 60-70 degrees from June until September but during the "summer" months they rarely dip below 90.

Even though he was in a land where the language is English, Wischmeyer had some language trouble at first.

"I listened to them and they sounded okay but when I'd talk I'd have to repeat what I said three times," he explained.

Arriving for school in August presented some problems in the land down under. Where most U.S. schools have two semesters, Australian schools have trimesters and Kent got in during the final period.

The school work is planned with the hardest study near the end so, as if he did not have enough to get used to right away, Kent had to submerge himself in subjects he was not used to. "I was just getting in and they were doing their hardest work."

The academic competition students face in Australia is stringent, much more than at home, he said.

There are only two universities in Perth and to get into them one must score high on the tests given at the end of high school.

Since college expenses are paid by the government, competition to fill the relatively few vacancies each year is stiff. "It's not your money that gets you in, it's your brains."

The pressure that accompanies the entrance exam was apparent, he recalled. "I knew one girl who had really high grades and the pressure just built up and she couldn't take it (the test)."

ON THE OTHER HAND, it is easy to progress since teachers never flunk a student unless they ask to be held behind. "You automatically go up," he said.

Among the classes he took while in Australia were geography, chemistry, biology, Chinese history and English.

Kent did well in Chinese history, since he got to take it twice.

Each trimester features a different history class and Kent had Chinese his first season there. But when he signed up for the history classes the next season, in order to catch up on what he missed, they changed the order and started with Chinese. No choice but to repeat, he said.

LIFE IN AUSTRALIA wasn't all work for the Cass Cityan.

Since most of Australia's cities and towns are on the coast, there is plenty of opportunity for water sports.

Among the visits Kent made outside of Perth was a trip to Harvey, a city to the north renowned for its fine surfing waves.

Although never having surfed before, Kent said he gave it his all. "The best I stayed up for was five seconds."

But one need not be up-right on the board to have a good time. Kent said he became adept at catching the breakers while lying on his stomach. Even so there is still a trick to surfing, he said.

ANOTHER FAVORED pastime, which he participated in almost every week end, was "cat surfing," or skimming out over the water in the sleek, light, twin-hulled catamarans that could be rented anywhere.

The pictures one sees of the adventure-seeking youth, hanging warily off

one side while the "cat" leans dangerously to the other is what Kent painted when describing the sport.

He said he would be able to hold the boat at more dangerous arcs for longer periods than a friend who had been doing it for years because, "he had no guts."

If weather ruled out such activities, he said they would often see a movie. Most films were American, but a year or two old.

WISCHMEYER COMPARED some of the common items Australians and Americans share, other than Olivia Newton-John.

He said gas is just a bit more expensive in Australia but their mass-transportation system is quite good so a car isn't as necessary as it is in the United States.

He added most high school kids don't own automobiles since the minimum driving age is 17, when most Australians are graduating.

Beef prices are cheaper and Kent said he ate a lot of meat in Australia, especially lamb.

He said he had lamb once a week and grew quite fond of it.

A number of American retail stores also have oper-

ations in Australia. Wischmeyer said he felt "right at home" when he entered a Woolworth's, K-Mart or walked under the golden arches of McDonald's.

Asked why he had chosen Australia, Kent told how he wanted to go somewhere that not many people from here had been to, plus he wanted to go somewhere that was far away from the United States.

"It's not like Mexico or something where you can just get in a car and drive back and forth."



AUSTRALIA IS FAMOUS for its soft, furry animals and Kent Wischmeyer exhibits some of the sheepskin and kangaroo-skin souvenirs he brought back from "down under."

Elkland couple protests Greenleaf gravel operation

Elkland township doesn't have any control over what happens in neighboring Greenleaf township, two Elkland residents were told by their township board Monday evening.

The married couple lives near the county line and asked the board whether anything can be done about the gravel pit operation about a mile away in Greenleaf. The area they live in in Elkland is zoned residential-agricultural.

Smoke from the operation, trucks using their road, etc., they felt, were reducing property values.

The board told Al Ortnier and Tom Walther it doesn't have any funds available this year for improvements on Wilsie Road, which runs two miles west from Cemetery Road.

The men had sought some improvements because they

use the road to bring in heavy equipment used in their potato farming operation, which sometimes tears up the road, which they then have to repair.

Summer POLKA-FEST AUG. 15-24

A Family Affair
HERITAGE PARK
FRANKENMUTH

Continuous Polka Music On Wooden Dance Floor

Featuring 15 Bands

Eddie Blazynczyk's Versatones, Marion Lush, Canadian Fiddlestix, Walt Grotter Orchestra, Mrozinski Brothers, Imperials of Toledo, The Polish Peaches, Tommy Reder & The Polka Towners, The Sorgenbrecher, Karen Stroiwas Polka Band, Judy & Her Suchey Brothers, Zimmerman Brothers, The Jolly Two, Marv Herzog's Bavarian Polka Band, Harold Mitas Orchestra.

Plus Button Box-

Concertina Concert*

*Note: All musicians with Button Box, Concertina or accompanying instrument, ADMITTED FREE on Sunday, August 24th.

Bands Play Continuously From:

4:30 p.m. Friday

2 p.m. Sat.

12 Noon Sunday

5 p.m. Monday thru Thursday

• Games and Activities on Sat. and Sun. for children

• Senior Citizens Half Price Monday thru Thursday

• Religious Service Sunday Aug. 17 & 24, 11 a.m.

BEER - WINE - SOFT DRINKS

Dinner and Sandwiches Available With Delicious Bratwurst, Chicken, German Potato Salad, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries, Etc.

Summer Close Outs

Costs Forgotten

SUPPLIES LIMITED — FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

2 Only Patton HiVelocity 3-speed 17" FAN Reg. \$23.88	4 Only Edison Thin 'N Light 20" FAN 3-speed \$19.88 Reg. \$29.95	12 Only Portable BBQ Grill \$1.88
2 Only Canvas Reclining LAWN CHAIRS \$9.88	30 Quart Styrofoam Coolers \$1.99	16-Inch Round HIBACHI \$17.88 value \$11.88
Covered Standing BBQ Grill \$30.88 value \$12.88	Everyday Low Price! CIGARETTES \$5.19 ctn. Plus Tax	2 Only McGraw-Edison 12" FAN 3-speed \$26.88 value \$17.88

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AT BIG SAVINGS

200 SHEET FILLER PAPER 99¢	THE ORGANIZER \$4.77
DATA CENTER \$4.77	PAPER MATE PENS 69¢
"SUN" SWIM POOL CHEMICALS IN STOCK	

1400 Watt Pro Style DRYER \$14.88	"The System" \$3.39	SCHOOL BOXES Only 49¢	G.E. Digital Alarm Clocks \$11.99
17 Pencils Just 98¢	J & J DAYTIME DIAPERS 30 For \$3.23	14 Huggies Overnight Sale \$3.09	48 Stayfree Super Maxi Pads \$5.19

WE ACCEPT ALL PRE-PAY PRESCRIPTION PLANS

COACH LIGHT PHARMACY
MIKE WEAVER, Owner Ph. 872-3613
Emergency Ph. 872-3283
Your Family Discount Drug Store

Authorized Thumb Distributor For
HOLLISTER OSTOMY PRODUCTS

EUGENE A. FOOTE

Wishes To

Thank the voters

of

District 1, Sanilac Co.

For Their Support In The Aug. 5 Primary

It Will Always Be Appreciated

Paid for by candidate.