

Our Foreign Students Will Give Chapel Program Tuesday



Our two foreign students, Ricki Eikendal, from Apeldoorn, the Netherlands, and Meggi Schuetz of Frankfurt, Germany, are probably a little bit homesick during the holiday season. They especially missed their homes early this week, on December 5th, which is a day of celebration in both Holland and Germany.

In the Netherlands, December 5th is the day on which people exchange gifts with friends and family, while December 25th is observed as a religious holiday only. Ricki received a box of all kinds of traditional Dutch candy for December 5th, with a long poem from "Sint Nicolaas" in the Netherlands. She misses the atmosphere of Sint Nicolaas day, though she received records, pictures, poems, and letters from her family, and sent them pictures and presents from Winston-Salem.

December 5th is a big day in Germany, too. It is the night when "Heiliger Nicolaus" and his servant, "Ruprecht" go to every house where there are children to punish those that have been bad and give gifts to each child. They come through the streets rattling a big chain, and Ruprecht carries switches to punish the bad ones. (Meggi's sister used to be so afraid of Heiliger Nicolaus and Ruprecht that she locked herself in the bathroom that afternoon and refused to unlock the door until they had gone, late that night.)

Meggi also misses the Advent wreaths and the Christmas trees that are put up in the center of every town and village and decorated with lights that are turned on every Sunday night during the Advent season, which begins the first of December. Her mother sent her an angel like the ones they put on the top of their Christmas trees. In Germany, however, gifts are exchanged on Christmas eve and Christmas Day, as here.

Ricki And Meggi Tell Of Christmas At Home In Europe

By Susan Hughes

With her long blonde hair falling over her shoulders, Ricki hopped out of bed and threw on a robe as she talked to me about Apeldorn, her home town in Holland. Apeldorn is about the size of Winston-Salem and is in the higher middle eastern section of the Netherlands. The Dutch Queen Mother lives there in her royal palace.

Ricki's family is a close one. She has no brothers or sisters, and she and her father and mother do lots of things together. Some of their favorite things to do are walking, swimming, riding "bikes," and going on holidays to the seaside or to a tiny place they love in the woods beside a lake.

"I have an enormous family," she said, "I have all my grandparents still." Along with her grandparents and her immediate family, Ricki gathers with the whole host of aunts, uncles and cousins every second Christmas. She laughed as she told of her grandfather, who is retired and keeps cows. He has an ancient racing bicycle that he still races out to the cows every morning, and he still wears wooden shoes.

Her father is the chairman of the board of supervisors for a large baking corporation. They make, import, and export all kinds of cookies and FOOD. He and the family enjoy doing things together because there aren't as many outside organizations, and they don't "go out" as much as we do.

The "best wishes" to Ricki in the dining room the other day were to congratulate her for becoming engaged to Jan de Groot, a first Lieutenant of Engineering at the Royal Military Academy. "He builds bridges."

"We don't have colleges like you have here . . ." There are two kinds of high schools, the "lower" which is equivalent to ours and the "higher" which gives the education equal to our high school plus two years of college. To enroll in a university, one must go to the "higher high school". The children begin school at the age of six. In all the schools, all the courses are required. A Dutch student must

learn French, German, English and must take courses in Dutch, just as we do English.

Ricki says she is not sure just what she wants to do when she goes back. She may continue to study, or, if she can find a good one, she might get a job. "First of all I am going on a holiday again."

This is the first year that Ricki hasn't been home for the whole holiday season. She says, "I like Salem, and I hadn't been at all homesick until now . . ."

From Erlenbach an Main in Germany comes Meggi Schuetz. Her gray-blue eyes sparkled as she peeped out from under the hair-drier hood to answer my questions. Erlenbach is a town of about 6000 people near Frankfurt. Meggi says it is very clean and nice, and she is proud of the beautiful scenery. Since she was born, the family has moved ten times, finally building their house in Erlenbach 5 years ago.

Besides herself there are three other children: Angela who is two years older and who is studying eastern languages and philosophy in France, a brother Hubert who wants to be a teacher and who is studying at the University of Wuerzburg, and her "little" brother (eighteen years old), Arnulf, who is studying at a music school. He plays the organ, harpsichord, flute, and violin. Both her brothers are musical and have sung in a famous

German children's choir.

Meggi says she finished high school at the same time Hubert did and that he sat next to her. He would tease her and cause noise and the teacher would always say "Miss Shuetz, can't you be quiet." In Germany the children go to primary school for four years and then they go nine years to "high school" which isn't like ours at all. In the first year they begin to study Latin, in the fourth year, Greek and in the sixth year, English. They have a list of required courses; and then if there are enough teachers, they may select extra courses.

After high school a student either goes on to a university or does not continue in school. Meggi has been two semesters at the University of Frankfurt. Between semesters she went to France and studied two months at a language school. Her major subjects are English and French.

All of the children were born in different cities. The first time that Meggi met someone whose whole family had been born in one place, she ran to her mother crying, "Mother, that can't be . . ." The family has hardly ever had many

occasions all together, for the children have been off at school or away somewhere.

When they are together they like to take hiking tours, and she and Hubert take bike trips. The whole family enjoys "house music," or singing and listening at home.

Maggi's grandparents live 300 miles away near the border of Czechoslovakia. She says when she was little it was a great event to pack up and go all that way to see them. They used to spend all their Christmases there.

Her father is in charge of exports from a factory near Erlenbach. They employ about 5000 people to make nylon, orlon and other synthetic fibers. The workers come from all around that area of Germany. "Fathem becomes most important at Christmas when he locks the door to the room with the Christmas tree in it, and decorates the room, and puts the presents out."

The hum of the hair drier made a very busy sound as a background for Meggi's voice spelling W-u-e-r-z-b-u-r-g, and it was hard to leave 200 South and go to the typewriter.

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