

SWISS SUMMER

# HIGHLIFE STYLES

by Hank Howard

Swiss cheese, Swiss chocolate and the Alps aren't all that comprise that tiny neutral republic in Europe, deducts Elyn Sykes, a senior here at Grimsley. And she should know, for much of her summer was spent in the chilly, high altitudes of Switzerland.

The journey which lasted from June 9 to August 11 covered a span of six weeks and included a type of orientation and language study in Vermont, a visit with a selected family in Gilly (on Lake Geneva), one week of horseback riding, one week of travel, and ten days again with the family in Gilly. During the entire visit, side trips were permitted which took students to places near their "home" such as the city of Lausanne, and a medieval village in France across Lake Geneva.

Included in Elyn's "family", the Weitzels, were a mother, father, children, Natalie; Gladys; and Christian; and a grandmother of Dutch-German descent. Elyn noted that the father sells and repairs lawnmowers and keeps shop below the family living quarters in a new chalet-type home. The view of the lake from their second floor terrace could only be described as breathtaking.

Another of Elyn's discoveries was that education is much more important and predominant in Swiss life. Since for all citizens college is required, the nation is said to be 99% literate, while the unemployment rate remains about 1%. Miss Sykes added that the schoolchildren did not begin summer vacation until July 10.

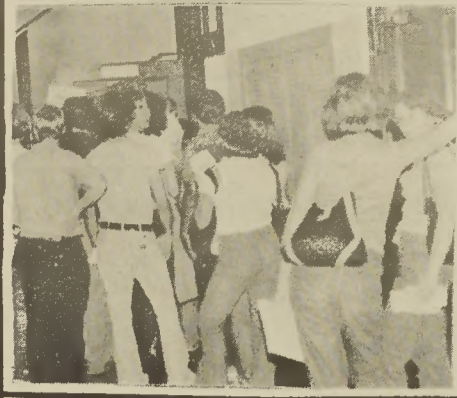
Herself a French student, Elyn admits that "it was hard to talk a lot at first." Language seemed to

be an extra barrier, as their were five French children visiting the Weitzels during Elyn's stay. The visitor from Grimsley explains that there are three major languages used in the country: French, German, and Italian. Various combinations of these languages of bordering nations are also widely used.

But perhaps one of the most international channels of communication proved to be no problem. During Elyn's stay the family television was only "brought out of the closet" once.

Still, Elyn admits that "traveling was the best part". Many trips throughout Switzerland took her to large cities such as Lausanne, Zurich, Geneva and Bern, the capital. Trains which "always ran on time" were a chief mode of transportation. Breathtaking views confronted the Grimsley senior in her trips. "There were lots of chateaux". Many hotels with outdoor cafes dot the townscapes, and the towns are known to be "very particular about their gardens."

"One outstanding trip took Elyn in a trolley 11333 feet up in the mountains to Jungfrau in the Alps, while another took her down to a lowland city where a wine festival, the Fete des Vignerons, celebrated only once every twenty-five years was the main attraction. An "ice palace" at the top of Jungfrau was described as truly spectacular since everything, including the walls, floor, ceiling, a Swiss flag symbol and Volkswagen were made of ice. Elyn also reports to have seen the famed Bern clock and the bear pits of Bern (the bear is the symbol of Switzerland).



Sorry!

This class  
is filled...

# main hall

Cindy Ward

Remember way back in June when the 3:30 bell rang on the last day of school? Most of us were ready to hit the beach, especially the newly graduated seniors.

Partying, late nights, sleeping until 12 noon, and basking away by the poolside were on the agenda for many of the students.

For some, weekends meant partying at a lake, with a little swimming and water skiing on the side.

Friday night specials were dates to see *Star Wars*, *The Deep*, or *The Other Side of Midnight*.

July arrived in hardly any time at all, bringing record-breaking temperatures, the Fourth of July, and the East-West All-star football game.

All too soon August was here, Son of Sam was captured, and one of the worst droughts in North Carolina's history had ruined crops all over the state.

Small pre-schoolers and graduated seniors alike began casting a wary eye at the day on which they would be attending a bigger school.

Meanwhile football practice had long been underway, sophoms, juniors, and seniors began receiving master schedules in the mail, and the mad scramble for decent lockers had begun.

Registration day arrived, then the first day of school was upon us. Now with Labor Day behind us, and classes in full swing, Summer of '77 is now nothing more than packaged memories...



Elyn Sykes

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