

# Highlight of Summer Was Wedding of Older Sister

(Editor's Note: The following letter is another in the series being written by the people of Torrance by Miss Pam Fleming, Torrance High exchange student in Germany.)

As a foreign student, I have seen many unique things. However, Aug. 20 and 21 were two days which will be most memorable for me.

I have mentioned my oldest sister before. Briefly, she is 23 and, I think, a fairly typical German girl. She is very cute with a lot of personality. Recently, she was employed by the firm of Massey-Ferguson as a secretary. When I arrived, Grit had a very pleasant surprise for me. She was engaged to be married. She and her fiancé, who just happened to be her boss at Massey-Ferguson, had planned their wedding to fall during my stay in Eschwege.

Of course, throughout the summer there were the usual details to be taken care of and innumerable shopping expeditions. Also, they were busy turning a rather large attic into an apartment. The results were terrific, I must say, and quite modern. Also, a few American touches such as a bathroom painted "dreamy pink."

IN GERMANY, the real celebration begins the night before the wedding. This is called Polterabend. A party, sort of an open house, is held at the home of the brides parents. All the guests come armed with old china, bottles, and anything good for making a mess. The articles are smashed on the front porch. In former times, this ceremony was designed to drive away evil spirits. Now, the idea is to make a big mess for the bride and groom to clean up!

Aug. 20 was a big celebration, but hardly prepared me for Aug. 21. Germany requires a civil ceremony. This takes place before the church wedding. In our case, it was at 11 a.m. I went to the Town Hall to observe. The ritual was short and not too different from what I had expected. It was difficult to believe that Grit and Ulrich were actually married because I was so accustomed to the religious services.

At home we all toasted the bride and groom with champagne before having our noon meal. For a short time after dinner, my family took short naps to prepare themselves for a "big party." This is how it was described to me. Not realizing the importance of their advice, I disregarded a chance to sleep, writing letters instead.

THE WEDDING was to take place in a village outside Eschwege at 5 p.m. Thoroughly excited, we were ready early. The executive of Massey-Ferguson was to attend and he arrived about 4 p.m. at our home in a limousine. We found that he, as a surprise, had ordered another car, decorated with flowers, and a chauffeur for Grit and Ulrich.

Being a slight romanticist, these circumstances gave the entire affair a slightly theatrical air.

Soon the stars of the play made their entrance. About 30 cars joined our procession and we snaked through Eschwege creating quite a stir. This was not a typical German wedding. I felt like a royal personage just two cars from the queen!

AT THE CHURCH I caught my first glimpse of the bride. Grit looked absolutely beautiful and I'm not that prejudiced. Her wedding dress was simple in style with a short skirt. It was white. She had a white net veil and long gloves. Most stunning of all were her flowers which were yellow rose buds.

The ceremony was also similar to an American church wedding except for a few customs. The bride and groom march in together leading a procession made up of wedding guests. Relatives are seated behind the altar, facing the bridal couple, who are also seated. Although my German is limited, I have the impression that the rituals are the same.

After the ceremony, we filed out of the church. We formed another caravan to get to the reception or wedding party.

IT WAS HELD at a restaurant in the country... a very scenic spot. After arriving, we were seated between a young German couple who past after which we were seated at a long table. There were about 35 guests. The wedding meal followed. I prefer to call it a feast!

The conversation was lively and extremely interesting for me as I was seated between a young German couple who were feasting on our feast was soon cleared away and the tables were arranged to accommodate smaller groups. These tables were soon surrounded by people and then empty. Everyone was dancing. The time? 8 p.m. We continued dancing until 12:30 a.m. This was a true German celebration complete with all those wonderful waltzes, music, and beer. It seemed like we had just finished dinner when

sandwiches and numerous delicacies were offered. The entire day was a most educational experience and I loved every minute of it. It was another day I wish everyone could have shared with me. I spent a lot of time wishing more people could have this wonderful opportunity.

PAM FLEMMING  
FOREIGN STUDENTS  
Final registration figures show that 788 foreign students enrolled at Stanford University last fall.

## Names First Author Gift

The California State College at Palos Verdes has received its first collector's edition from a local author. Lillian Baker presented Clarence Gorchels, college librarian with a copy of "A Book of Alms" which was published this year. In announcing receipt of the gift, Leo F. Cain, college president, said the librarian hopes to assemble the writings of all authors who live in the service area of the college. Other authors who wish to deposit copies of their books in the college library are invited to contact the college librarian at 377-6837.

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