

Different nationalities amaze Spanish exchange student

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

Seventeen-year-old Sonsoles Seoane, a June graduate from a Madrid, Spain High School, has been in the United States less than two weeks, but she is amazed at the size of the country and many nationalities.

Sonsoles, "Sunny" as she is called by most of her friends, lives in Madrid, Spain, with her parents and three of her four sisters and two brothers. Her fourth sister is married and lives in the Sudan with her husband.

Sunny graduated from a high school similar to the schools in the United States except that it was an all-girl school until after 11th grade. In 12th grade, the class was coed because the students spent that year studying in preparation for college.

Having heard and read so much about America, Sunny's dream was to visit the states so when she learned about the American Institute for Foreign Study, with an office in Connecticut, she applied to the organization hoping to be accepted. In order to qualify, Sunny had to have grades above a certain average and also had to pass an English grammar test. Since she was a 4.0 student and, in addition to studying English in school, had been tutored in English privately for eight years, Sunny had no problem.

Sunny received word from the AIFS that she was among 400 Spanish students who were accepted to come to the United States. She met with the other students in Madrid where they stayed together for two days attending orientation sessions before flying to America. They left Spain on August 22 and arrived at John F. Kennedy Airport on August 24. From there, Sunny flew by Allegheny Commuter to Wilkes-Barre Scranton Airport, where she was met by her host American family, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mekeel of Dallas.

"I wanted to come to the States to learn whether all the things I had heard were so. I always heard that in America everyone wore jeans, eats hamburgs and ice cream," said Sunny. "I always wanted to repeat my senior year in an American high school because I want to be an attorney and I believe a year in an American high school will help me in scoring high on my SAT tests. My father and my sister are lawyers and one day I want to practice International Law."

Sunny's first disappointment in America came when she tried to enroll at Dallas High School and she was refused by District Superintendent Gerald Wycallis. When asked why he refused the young Spanish girl, Wycallis said that the board of directors voted to accept only students from four exchange programs — Rotary Exchange, American Foreign Service, Holland Foreign Exchange and American Academic Foreign Exchange, despite the fact that the AIFS is a federally-funded exchange program.

Sunny, however, was not disappointed for long, because she applied to Lake-Lehman where she was readily admitted and worked out a schedule with the senior high school guidance counselor.

An outstanding basketball player at her alma mater in Madrid, Sunny hopes to be able to play at Lake-Lehman. She also hopes to go skiing during the winter.

The high school student is a seasoned traveler, having visited many of the countries in Europe in order to further her education. She enjoys learning about the cultures of other countries. She says the Italians and Spanish people are very close because many of their customs and their language is very similar, although she believes the Italians are a little more European than the Spanish.

Sunny was amazed when she landed in New York and saw the size of the city and many nationalities. Although she saw only Manhattan,

Chinatown, Greenwich Village and Little Italy before she left for the local area, she said the people reminded her of a "little world" because there were so many different types of people.

The homes here are very different from where she lives in Madrid. The Seoane family, brothers, sisters, parents, aunts and uncles, cousins and grandparents, live in a large family complex — one huge building with all relatives having their own apartments in the building. In Spain, she said, there are many farms in the rural areas and in the southern part there are many vineyards and wineries, and the people live on plantation-type property. In the north, most of the large factories and industries are located.

Sunny said there is no comparison in the food. "At home we don't eat 'junk' food — no pizza, hot dogs and such," she said. "My mother makes fresh food every day and we eat at regular times. We have coffee and toast every morning for breakfast; at 2:30 we have our lunch or dinner, our main meal; and between 9 and 10 p.m., we have supper, a light meal, but no 'fast' food."

Although in America approximately two weeks, Sunny has found the recreation different. In Spain at age 16 young people could go to the pubs and at age 18 they could go out in the late evening. They have no drive-in theatres and they can't drive until they are 18 years of age.

"The main difference," said Sunny, "is that in Spain most everyone is Catholic. There are no sexual relationships until after marriage, not like in America." Her general impression to date is that the young people in America are less mature than in Spain.

Although looking forward to attending Lake-Lehman High School, Sunny was a little apprehensive about whether or not the students would accept her. But if Dobermans are good judges of people, there is no doubt that Sunny will be a success in America for the two owned by the Mekeels have become her friends.



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

International friends

Spanish exchange student Sonsoles Seoane takes time out to pose with Mrs. Richard Mekeel, of Dallas, with whom she is staying while in the United States. With Sonsoles are the Mekeel's two Dobermans both of whom have become the student's friends.

Baptist Chapel to note anniversary

An anniversary celebration will be held by Dallas Baptist Church on September 14, 1986.

A small group of believers began services formally as Dallas Baptist Chapel on July 31, 1966. As the Lord blessed their efforts, the chapel was constituted into the Dallas Baptist Church on September 14, 1969. At this time they began meeting in a

church building on Mill St., Dallas, until September, 1981 when the congregation relocated into their newly constructed building on Route 415, Idetown.

This 17th anniversary as a constituted church will be held at their present location. The services will begin with the regularly scheduled Sunday School and worship service

beginning at 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. respectively.

Immediately following the morning services, there will be a church-wide dinner and time of fellowship and games. A special praise service will be held at 3 p.m., thanking God for His blessings and direction.

These services will be led by Pastor David R. Penley.

Donegal Society sponsors contest

The Donegal Society of Greater Wilkes-Barre is sponsoring a contest for single girls, age 18 to 24 years who reside in the Northeastern Pennsylvania region. The contestants must have reached their 18th birthday before July 31, 1987 and not have reached their 25th birthday before the same date. At least one of the contestants' parents must be of Irish descent. This not a talent contest.

The final selection will be made at the Donegal Ball at the Woodlands, Wilkes-Barre, on Friday evening, Nov. 7, 1986. The winner will receive an all expenses paid week-long trip to Ireland in July, 1987 and will be entered in the International Mary from Dungloe Contest, County Donegal, Ireland. An all expenses paid trip will be provided for a qualified chaperone.

All contestants will be required to

appear at the Donegal Ball in November. Contestants will also be required to be available for interviews by judges preceding the Ball. The winner of the contest must be available for the one-week trip to the Dungloe Festival in late July or early August of 1987.

Maureen Monahan of Mountaintop was last year's winner and appeared at the Dungloe Festival this past July.

Marriage licenses

(The following Back Mountain residents have applied for Marriage Licenses at the Luzerne County Courthouse:)

GREGORY KEITH SIMMS, RD 2, Dallas, and KERRIE LYN DAVIS, Box 91N, Sweet Valley.

ORVILLE IDE, RD 4, Dallas, and JOAN P. LANGDON, 31 Brookside St., Wilkes-Barre.

RICKY J. CISNEY, 39 Hilltop Dr., RD 1, Dallas, and JOYCE LEE HARGER, 401 Bennett St., Luzerne.

ROBERT GRAZIANO, RD 1, Box 830A, Lake Ariel, and EDITH JENNINGS, 56 Shaver Ave., Shavertown.

JOSEPH A. GALAZIN, 585 Cigarski Rd., Shavertown, and JUDITH STEELE, 262 E. Main St., Plymouth.

WAYNE GOLIGHTLEY, 114 Weavertown Rd., Shavertown, and JAYNE JONES, 589 Carey Ave., Wilkes-Barre.

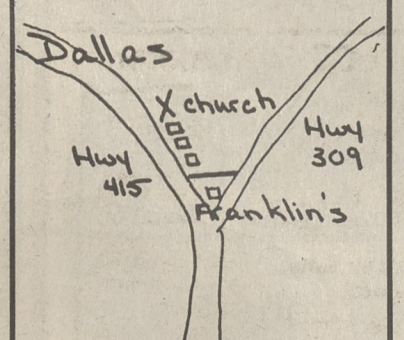
ROBERT A. SUPEY, 217 Orchard St., Exeter, and DIANE C. WOJOWICZ, Box 239, Follies Rd., Dallas.

MICHAEL SHAROK, JR. 179 Green St., Edwardsville, to MILLICENT J. KOCHER, RD 2, Box 388, Dallas.

DAVID ASHTON, Box 196, RD 4, Dallas, to KIM TURNER, RD 3, Box 237, Dallas.

ALLEN KIDD, JR. Box 266, RD 1, West Pittston, to DEBRA FULLER, Box 235, RD 3, Dallas.

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President Christopher N. Breiseth,
An Overview of the History of the Wyoming Valley

Saturday, October 4

Dr. Charles Reif,
The Geological History of the Wyoming Valley

Saturday, November 29

Dr. Harold Cox,
An Historical Perspective on the Transportation Systems of the Wyoming Valley

Saturday, February 28

Dr. Charlotte Lord,
The Arts and Culture of the Wyoming Valley

Saturday, March 7

Dr. James J. Bohning,
The Technological History of the Wyoming Valley

Saturday, March 21

Dr. Eugene Hammer,
The Historical Perspective on Educational Facilities of the Wyoming Valley

Saturday, April 11

Dr. Edward Davies,
The Business and Economic History of the Wyoming Valley

Sunday, April 26

Dr. Edward Hartmann,
The Ethnic History of the Wyoming Valley

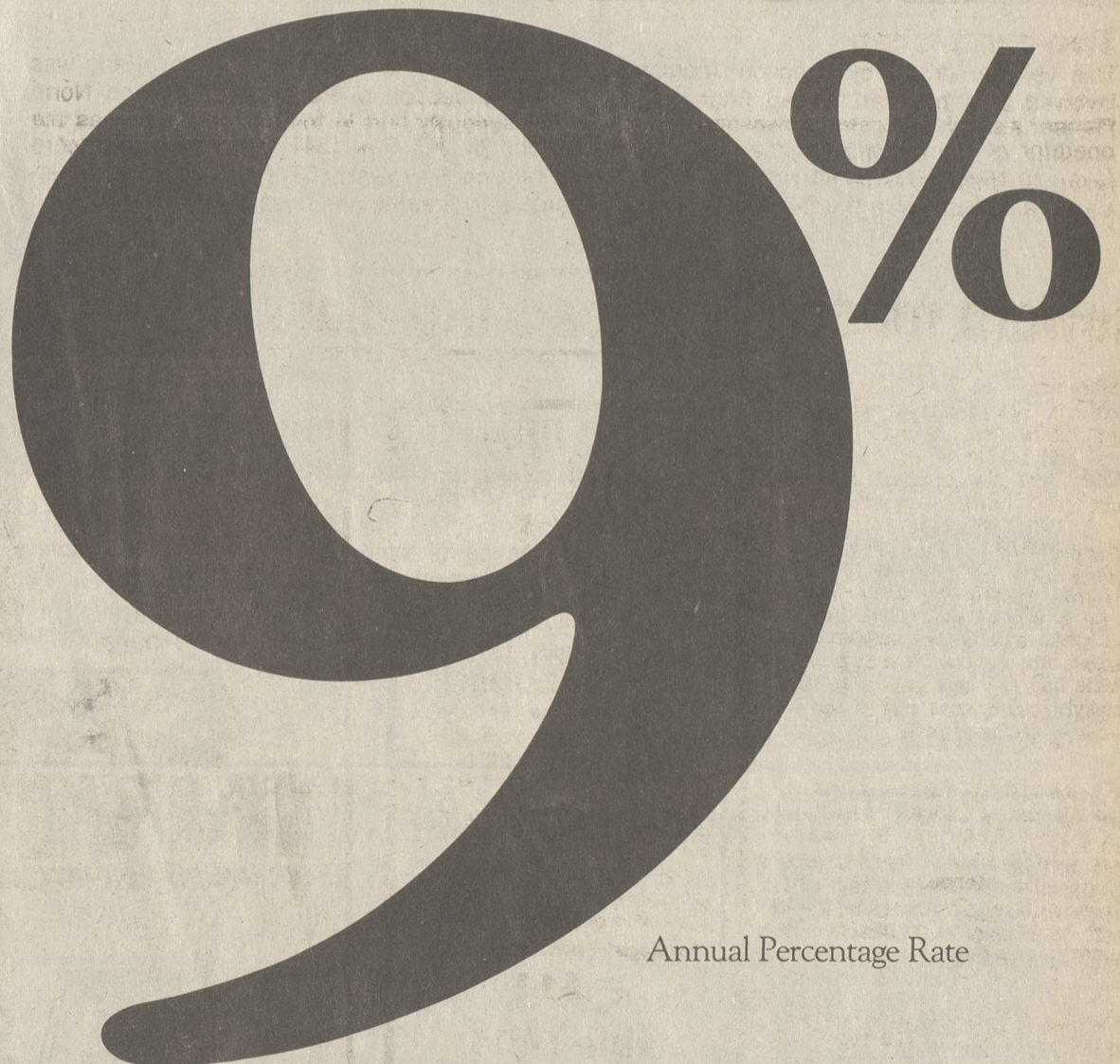
Presenters for the Lecture Series are members of the Wilkes College faculty and alumni. An informal reception to meet the speaker will follow each lecture.

For further information contact Wilkes College at 824-4651, Ext. 440.

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