

Australian citizen visits Mom, Dad

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

In September of 1962, when Marjorie Davis entered her senior year at Dallas High School she was looking forward to a graduation, then entering a school of nursing. Little did she realize that a tall, light-brown haired male exchange student from Myrtleford, Australia, would bring about a complete change in her life before graduation in June 1963.

Marjorie, the daughter of William and Verna Davis of the Back Mountain, like other students in the class looked forward to meeting the new student from Australia, Ross Walker, who came to the United States through the Rotary Exchange Program. It wasn't too long, however, before Marjorie and Ross attended school events and church youth group activities together.

"As soon as I saw them with one another, I knew they would be married one day," said Marjorie's mother.

Verna Davis was right because for today, her daughter is Mrs. Ross Walker, living in the small city of Echuca, located along the Murray River in Australia. She and Ross are parents of two children, Michael, 19, in his second year at the University of Melbourne majoring in nuclear physics, and Scott, 15, student in high school.

This month Marjorie is visiting her mother and dad, returning to the States for the first time in eight years when the entire family came for the Christmas holidays. This time, Marjorie came alone to spend one month of a three-month service leave from her nursing position with her parents.

When Marjorie and Ross graduated from Dallas High School in 1963, they were engaged but Ross, according to the requirements of the Exchange Program had to return to Australia. Two years later, however, Marjorie went to Australia where they were married. "In a small wedding with about 150 of Ross' relatives attending," laughed Marjorie.

The couple remained in Australia for a year, then returned to the United States and the Back Mountain where they lived for eight years. Ross registered at King's College where he received his degree in accounting. He received job offers in New York City and in Chicago but since they didn't want to raise their two sons in either city, they decided to return to Australia when Ross was offered a transfer by the company with whom he was working as an accountant.

Three years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Davis went to Australia to visit their daughter and son-in-law and their family, spending four months with them.

Marjorie is now a registered nurse on the staff of the Echuca District Hospital, having studied nursing after she returned to Australia and her sons were in school.

A naturalized Australian citizen, Marjorie loves the country. "The lifestyle is more relaxed and easy going," she said. "Our climate is much warmer than here and we spend a lot of time out-of-doors. The Australians are very American in their thinking. We have all the fast food places that are here in



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Mother, daughter reunited

Marjorie Davis Walker greets her mother upon her arrival in the Back Mountain from Echuca, Australia. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Davis, Kunkle, Marjorie is now a citizen of the country 'down under.'

America, cinemas, similar television with American and English programs and a lot of outdoor sports. We also have a lot of outdoor barbecues."

The Walkers at one time lived in Melbourne but now live in Echuca, a city with a population of about 8,000. It is a much quieter area and about two and a half hours from Melbourne.

Marjorie explained that they have a lot of boat races, water skiing, cricket, hockey, football and tennis but none of these are competitive sports in the schools as they are in America. There are more town competitive sports with one town competing against another.

One topic Marjorie does not care to talk about is politics. "I have no use for politics," she said. "Mention politics and you can shut me up. Our government is very similar to the Canadian type of government."

Outside of the city of Echuca where the Walkers live are large sheep, wheat or horse farms, most of them miles apart. Each farm is so large, the distance from the main house to where the children have to get the school bus is so far, they need to be transported.

Out in the Back Country, Marjorie explained, they have the "School of the Air" where the children are taught by television and the students in each home have a ham radio to carry on discussions with their teachers.

Out in the bush there are no paved roads, according to Marjorie, but in the city the highways are similar to those in the United States although narrower.

The Walkers have two theatre groups in Echuca, several art studios and several ballet troupes. They also drive into Melbourne for concerts and symphonies. Marjorie said they have many more cultural centers than in this area.

She has seen "tons" of changes in the Back Mountain since being here before and has had a difficult time identifying much of the area although she has seen a few familiar landmarks. "I do see many familiar faces, however," she remarked.

In Australia, their police force is different. There are no community police departments but all are state police forces. All candidates for the police must train at state academies and

are selectively chosen according to how they pass the training. They are assigned to areas when certified. In Echuca, the force numbers 36 policemen.

Marjorie thanks the Rotary Exchange Program for her marriage despite the fact that the Rotary members disapproved of their going together. Ironically, Ross is now president of the Echuca Rotary Club.

Around town

RECENTLY, EDITH PILLARELLA, wife of Rev. Andrew Pillarella, pastor of Trinity United Presbyterian Church, attended the dedication of The Joseph House, Staten Island, N.Y. An apartment house for senior citizens, The Joseph House is dedicated to Edith's father Rev. Dr. Joseph S. DeRogatis.

Edith's parents, the late Rev. DeRogatis and Emma Cold DeRogatis, were missionary workers with Italian immigrants on Staten Island, in New York City. Rev. DeRogatis was pastor of Olivet Presbyterian Church, which he established as a mission church and served for 50 years. A very progressive minister Rev. DeRogatis was instrumental in helping his congregation find employment, learn to read, helped them with English interpretation and educated them concerning the ill effects of use of alcohol and drugs.

The property on which the Joseph House is located was purchased during Rev. DeRogatis' pastorate. In appreciation for the efforts of Rev. and Mrs. DeRogatis, the senior citizen apartments were named in his honor.

A wonderful weekend was enjoyed by the DeRogatis family. On Saturday evening an informal gathering was held with visiting of many old friends. On Sunday, the DeRogatis children, Edith Pillarella, Rev. Davis S. DeRogatis, Waban, Massachusetts and Faith Merrill, Rome, New York, participated in the worship service. Sunday afternoon, a banquet was held celebrating the church's anniversary and

Joan Kingsbury



the Joseph House dedication. Each of the DeRogatis offspring spoke about highlights in their parents' ministry.

Attending from the Back Mountain in addition to Mrs. Pillarella were Beth Pillarella Faerber, her husband, Bill, and their daughter, Kristen and Mary Pillarella. Mrs. Faerber and Ms. Pillarella are grandchildren of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. DeRogatis. Kristen Faerber is one of their great-grandchildren.

BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, the Christmas Holidays will be upon us. Shopping early is the best way to get what you want in the way of gifts. Many area churches will be holding Christmas Boutiques featuring beautiful homemade items.

THE LADIES GUILD of St. Frances Cabrini Church will hold their Christmas Boutique on Nov. 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 9:15 to 2 p.m. at the church located on Mount Olivet Road across from Mount Olivet Cemetery.

In addition to many handmade items being offered, a homemade afghan will be raffled off. Mary Ann Knepp is president of the Ladies Guild. Rev. John

Foley is pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church.

BEST OF LUCK to Dallas sophomore Ann Balonis, daughter of Betsy and Ron Balonis, Trucksville, who will be representing Dallas High School in cross country state competition at Penn State main campus, State College on Nov. 1.

MR. AND MRS. ELWOOD SWINGLE, Shavertown, will be entertaining Margaret Harrison of England for three weeks. Margaret will be attending the installation of Mary Lou Swingle as president of Penn's Woods Girl Scout Council during her visit.

GATE OF HEAVEN CHEERLEADERS had a great time Saturday at cheerleading clinic offered by the national champion Hanover Cheerleaders in College Misericordia gym.

The girls learned some chants, new cheers, worked on gymnastics and jump mounts.

Attending were Kathy Hughes and Bridgette Scott, captains of Gate of Heaven cheerleaders, Nancy Kingsbury, Carrie Reid, Paula Sitar, Lauren O'Neil, Jody Kuniskas, Cindy Kuniskas, Jennifer Harteis, Lisa Ford, Lori Van Etten, Joanna Siegel, alternates, Josephine Zekes, Amy Alles and Erin Cuff.

Miss Mary Grace Cascio and Miss Janet Furman are coaches of the Gate of Heaven Cheerleaders.

(Joan Kingsbury, a Back Mountain resident, is a columnist for The Dallas Post. Her column appears regularly.)

JOSEPH

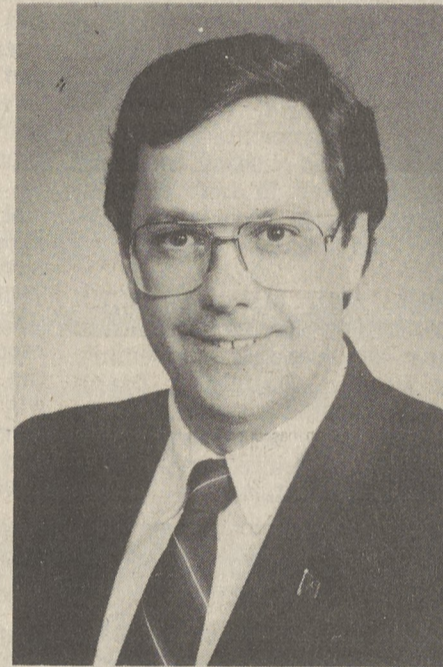
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Take the "Tricks" Out of Trick or Treat!

Make this Halloween a fun and safe one.

Avoid any Halloween scares by following these simple, but important, safety tips.

- Keep children away from lit jack-o'-lanterns if their costumes are flammable.
- Make sure costumes are not so long that your child could trip on them. Reflective tape should be put on all costumes — especially dark-colored ones. Also, painted faces are better than masks since masks almost always affect vision.
- Instruct children not to eat any treats before you have inspected them carefully. You may want to feed them a good meal and give them several treats before they go

trick or treating to help avoid temptation.

- Trick or treat only in well-lighted neighborhoods — preferably only at homes where you know the occupants personally.
- Accompany all small children while trick or treating. Older children, if unchaperoned, should follow a predetermined route and have a set curfew time.
- Carry a flashlight and walk on sidewalks, not on streets. Do not run between parked cars to cross the streets — cross at corners only after looking both ways for cars. (If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.)
- Inspect all candy and other treats closely. Candy with torn wrappers or any packaging that looks like it has

been tampered with should be immediately thrown away. Fruit should be washed and cut into small pieces before eating.

Don't let the goblins get you — follow these Halloween safety tips!



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