

Local woman spends year in England



Nova and her mother, Sharon, at the Pontefract train station in England

She left the U.S. in September 1998, a teenager from a tiny town in rural eastern Oregon. She returned almost a year later as a cosmopolitan young woman with a British accent and a penchant for salt and vinegar--on everything.

Almost two years ago Nova Rietmann made the decision to get her high school diploma a year early and spend her senior year as an exchange student in England. In addition to attending the regular required classes at Lone High School her junior year, she attended night school in Hermiston to complete her graduation requirements. On May 28, 1999, although she was a continent away, she was awarded a diploma along with the other seven members of the Lone High School Class of 1999.

Nova left Lone for Seattle on September 1, 1998. The next day, with two other American teenagers and three more from Canada as traveling companions, she flew out of Seattle to England. After a layover in Newark, New Jersey, she arrived at Gatwick, outside of London, and then took the train to the town of York. There, after 24 hours of traveling, she was picked up by her host family, Paul and Bev Greenwood of Castleford, West Yorkshire, and their children, Ben, six, and Leanne, five.

Nova says that Paul, a manager for an industrial door company, and Bev, who worked for a gas company, lived in an average-sized three bedroom house for England-which would be quite small by American standards. Nova shared a bedroom with the Greenwood's five-year-old daughter. The Greenwoods had what would be called a luxury car in Great Britain, but here would be considered a compact. Their town, Castleford, which is around the size of Hermiston, was about three hours from London and 20 minutes from Leeds, a city the size of Seattle.

While the English homes and cars are considered small by American standards, the school that Nova attended was "huge." She attended St. Wilfred's Catholic High School and Six Form College, along with around 1,000 other students 10-18 years old. In England, says Nova, students attend high school until age 16 and then either go to work or continue on with school. If they plan to go to a university, they go to an additional two years (six form) of school.

While at St. Wilfred's Nova attended three classes each term (students can take up to four a term) and classes meet four times a week. There are two teachers for each class, with students meeting half the time with each teacher. Class sizes range dramatically--one of Nova's classes had only three students, but another had over 30. Nova's classes included Spanish, performing arts and theology. The teachers, she says, were pretty much like the teachers in the U.S. and the classes were not especially harder or easier than the classes in American schools--just different. The school year has six terms, but classes don't change from term to term. English students have more

vacations--only a month in the summer, but a week to two weeks between terms and almost a month for Christmas. Christmas and New Year's are much like in the U.S. (her family threw a '70s New Year's party), but Easter is more of a church holiday, although they do have the Easter Bunny.

Sports aren't emphasized in school, in fact, there are no organized sports at all in the schools. Instead, students who want to participate in sports join clubs set up after school. In addition to football (which would be soccer in the U.S.), rugby and cricket, there are also horse riding, dancing, music, drama and other types of clubs. Clubs, which students must pay for, are sometimes held in community centers.

Many families go together to the English pubs and teens 14 and over are allowed in the pubs by themselves. British teens and young adults 18-25 often go to clubs to listen to music and dance. The drinking age is 18, but it is not strictly enforced. "They grow up with it," says Nova, "so it's not as big a deal (as in the U.S.). They don't usually go out and get 'trashed'. And no one drives if they've been drinking."

"The public transportation system is really good," adds Nova. "There are buses everywhere. A lot of families have one car, but they don't really need to drive." Teens can get their driving licenses at age 17, but they are required to take driving lessons prior to that. Nova says that usually if a British teenager wants a car he or she has to buy it and insure it themselves. Of all her English friends, only one drove, and the rest took the bus, she says.

Besides going dancing at clubs with her friends, Nova, 18, enjoyed going into Leeds to go shopping. Oftentimes, her host family went to rugby matches on Sundays and then came home to a big dinner. "Sunday dinner was a big thing," says Nova. Sunday dinner was usually either chicken or roast beef, mashed or roast potatoes and several kinds of vegetables. "I thought the food was good," said Nova. "You just get the food, not a lot of spices. Fish and chips was really good, much better than in the U.S. They make it fresh--they bread it and everything right there at the fish and chips shop." Besides the fish and chips, Nova especially liked the Indian food. Britain was home to many Indian and Pakistani immigrants, she said. A typical lunch was sandwiches and crisps (potato chips) with salt and vinegar, which she learned to love and now puts on "everything."

While Nova wasn't able to do much traveling, since she was attending school, she did travel some when her parents, Harold and Sharon, came to visit her for 10 days in February. She also took a trip with her school class to Lourdes, France.

While in Great Britain, Nova became best friends with Mirelle Noronha from Brazil. Mirelle, 19, who was Portuguese, was staying as an exchange student with Paul's parents, who also lived in Castleford. Nova also became friends with quite a few English teens. "The English are more laid back," says Nova. "They don't worry as much about



Nova Rietmann

things. They have a wonderful sense of humor--they make fun of anything and everything and they're not afraid to make fun of themselves." They were hard to understand at first, says Nova, and it took a while longer to understand the British slang. For example, a car trunk is the boot, the car hood, a bonnet, and they English have a front garden and a back garden, rather than the front yard and back yard. The English were taken aback at the prevalence of guns in the U.S., says Nova, and especially amazed that many American families own guns.

Now that Nova is back in the U.S., her experience in England has a dreamlike quality. "It seems like it was so long ago," she says. "Everything's a blur now. It's like a dream, a different world." She hopes someday to go back to England and also dreams of a trip to Brazil to visit Mirelle, but for now she's decided to stick pretty close to home and plans to enroll full-time this fall at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

Internet classes offered

Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) is providing Umatilla and Morrow county residents with an opportunity to take the mystery out of the Internet by taking the Internet on the road.

BMCC "Widening Our World" (WOW) II free Internet courses are planned to coincide with the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston, the Morrow County Fair in Heppner and Muddy Frogwater in Milton-Freewater. Participants will learn how to harness the Internet information explosion in short courses focused on specific topic areas.

In Hermiston, BMCC WOW II, sponsored by the Umatilla County Fair and United Rentals of Hermiston, will be held Aug. 4-6 from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

In Heppner, BMCC WOW, sponsored by the Morrow County Fair, will be held Wednesday, Aug. 18.

In Milton-Freewater, BMCC WOW, sponsored by Norman Saager, DMD, will be held on Saturday, Aug. 21.

These courses are similar in content to the BMCC WOW classes offered last year in Pendleton. Training is provided by the BMCC staff and volunteers. Classes may include: Internet for Small Businesses, Internet for Non-Profit and Community Service Groups, Internet for Families: Surfing Side by Side, Internet for Agriculture, Using the Internet for Research, Communicating with the Web, Stock Trading on the Web, Internet for Hispanic Culture/Arts, Internet for Genealogy, Internet for Arts and Entertainment, Internet for Shopping, Internet for Sports, and Internet for Travel.

Course registration will be held at each location. Class size is limited and classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call Blue Mountain Community College at (541) 278-5762 for class registration information.

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Vision support group

For anyone with low vision problems, there will be a Vision Northwest Support Group starting in Hermiston.

The group will meet the first Wednesday of every month from 1:30-3 p.m. at the First Christian Church fellowship hall (in the back of the building). The church is located at West Highland and 7th Place.

The group will meet Wednesday, Aug. 4.

For more information, contact Erna Hiigel at 567-0550.

W.C.C.C. Golf

WCCC Ladies' Play
Tuesday, July 20

Low gross of the field: Pat Edmundson.

Low net of the field: Joyce Dinkins.

Least putts of the field: Della Heideman.

Flight A: low gross-Deborah Kendrick; low net-Luvilla Sonstegard; least putts-Beverly Gunderson.

Flight B: low gross-Carol Norris; low net-Betty Rietmann; least putts-Suzanne Jepsen.

Flight C: low gross-Francis Morris; low net-Floss Watkins; least putts-Lorrene Montgomery.

Chip ins: Suzanne Jepsen, #8; Carol Norris, #3; Della Heideman, #3.

Special play: flag tournament-first place Joyce Dinkins, second place Deborah Kendrick, third place Betty Christman, fourth place Jean Ball.

Perfect handicap in #9 hole-Floss Watkins, Carol Norris, Suzanne Jepsen, Della Heideman.

First to plant flag-Beverly Gunderson.

A string tournament will be held Tuesday, Aug. 10 at 8 a.m.

WCCC Men's

Championship Tournament
1999 champion: John Edmundson, 27 hole score of 96. Low net champion: Jason Hanna, 82. (Par 90.)

First flight: gross-first Greg Grant, 97, second Slater Mitchell 99, third a tie between Duane Disque and Ken Eckman 101; net-first Tom Shear, second Gary Watkins, third Don Eaves, fourth Rob Waite. Least putts: John Edmundson.

Second flight: gross-first Dave Hanna 112, second a tie between Dave Gunderson, Dave Mitchell and Ralph Walker 115; net-first Earl Norris, second Roy Martin, third Gene Sonstegard, fourth Tad Miller. Least putts: Ralph Walker.

Third flight: gross-first Perry Adams 113, second Gene Orwick 125, third Stub Lewis 126, fourth Russ Rollis 132; net-first Steve Rollis, second Jim Hayes, third Rodney Erhmantrout, fourth Loren Heideman. Least putts: Perry Adams.

Special events winners: Duane Disque, Jason Hanna, Loren Heideman, Ron Bowman, Tad Miller, Rodney Erhmantrout, Steve Rollis, John Edmundson, Earl Norris, Perry Adams, Brent Gunderson, Don Eaves and Jim Hayes.

MC Chronicals now available

The 1999 Morrow County Chronicals are now available for purchase from the Morrow County Historical Society. This year's collection of historically-oriented information features articles about the Morrow County judges; a memory of Willow Creek; the Alstott, Baker and Notsun families; Heppner pre-flood houses; the Lexington School and the Irrigon City Hall/School; Peterson's Jewelers; and the West Extension Irrigation District.

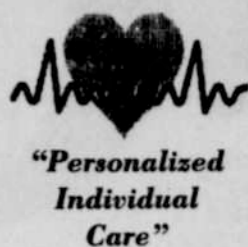
Complementing the information on these topics are thirty-eight related photographs, including two in which many faces have not been identified.

The Historical Society hopes that readers will be able to place names with the unidentified persons in these two photos.

Still only \$4 each this year, copies of this eighteenth volume of the Chronicals are available in Heppner at Murray Drugs, Klamath First Federal Bank, Twice Upon a Time bookstore, and the Bank of Eastern Oregon. They are available in Ione at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. In Boardman, they can be purchased at Boardman Pharmacy and at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. In Irrigon, they are available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

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Wedding Tables

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Wedding-Saturday, August 7th

Victoria Green & Steven Schaber
Wedding-Saturday, August 7th

Kathryn Cutsforth & Edward Fullmer
Wedding-Saturday, August 28th

Darcee Padberg & Slater Mitchell
Wedding-Saturday, September 4th

Ruth Norton & Dustin Smith
Wedding-Saturday, September 4th

Mary Jane McCarty & Aaron Heideman
Wedding-Saturday, September 11th



16th Annual

IRRIGON WATERMELON FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 31st at the Irrigon Marina Park

IRRIGON WATERMELON FESTIVAL



BREAKFAST 6:30-9:00 a.m.

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT 7:00 a.m.

(call Rick Ellison to enter: 922-2357)

PARADE 10:00 a.m.

(call Karen Cooley to enter: 922-3137)

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For more information, call Donna Eppenbach, 922-3197, or LaVelle Partlow, 922-3386
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