

Fontana swimmer to compete in West Berlin



Swimmer Holy Wetzler

Staff photo by Laura Young

By LAURA YOUNG
Staff writer

FONTANA — International swimming competitions usually bring to the Olympic gold medals and fame.

But Holly Wetzler, 12, of Fontana, will swim in such an event next month, an opportunity that older and faster swimmers only dream of.

A West Berlin swim team, Zehlendorf 08, invited Wetzler and three other swimmers from the Walnut Valley and Mount Baldy aquatic teams to enter the competition.

For four years, the German and American teams have traded summer visits, but this is the first time Wetzler has gone overseas.

Although Wetzler admits she's a good swimmer, she's not a professional.

She's an "age grupper," a swimmer who competes against other swimmers her own age.

She has been swimming seriously for four years. And she's worried because she's not even sure if she will qualify for the Junior Olympics this summer, let alone win a gold medal.

"Age group swimmers very rarely have the opportunity to compete internationally," said Janet Andersen, Wetzler's mother. "If you do, you're going to the Junior Olympics."

Usually a person has to qualify at "senior weeks" time before they get the chance to enter international competition, Andersen explained.

"You can be 6 and if you're swimming that fast, you can get senior women's status, but that's pretty rare," Andersen said.

Dropped in the pool when she

was 3 months old, Wetzler had to catch on fast, her mother said.

"I took her to a YMCA thing for kids, because we had a pool and I couldn't see having kids drowning in their own pool."

"They just drop the kids in the pool. They hold the sides of the kids' head so they're straight, then dunk them one, two, three," Andersen said.

Wetzler stopped swimming when she was 4 and the family moved to a new house without a pool.

Now that she's back at it, Wetzler said she has moved up fast.

"When she started four years ago with Mount Baldy, she moved up two or three levels in a season," said a diving lot of classes, she said.

"Usually, you would start out as a novice, but I don't know about that 'cause I never did it," she said.

After three seasons with Mount Baldy Aquatics, Wetzler now works with Rialto Swim Club under coach Jim Grisham.

Traveling from Fontana to Claremont once or twice a day to work with the Baldy team became too expensive, Andersen said.

"I came over to Rialto for economics, but really it has worked out better."

"She wasn't cutting time swimming faster at all over there, and she is here. She's on a plateau," Andersen added.

"Since I've been on Rialto, I've been cutting a lot, two to three seconds a meet," Wetzler said.

Her times which she lowered at her last meet, are 29:38 in the 50 yard backstroke; 34:6 in the 50 yard freestyle; 38:93 in the 50 yard fly, and 3:02.02 in the 200 yard individual medley, which combines back, breast, free and butterfly strokes.

Now, Metzler's concentrating on qualifying for the Junior Olympics, which will be held in August.

"I need to get a 20:10 in the 50 back for triple A status necessary to enter the contest," she said.

Andersen added, "She's got one second to cut, and one meet to cut it." Her time in a meet at Mt. San Antonio Community College in Walnut next weekend will decide Metzler's schedule for the summer.

Even if she doesn't make her team this year, Wetzler doesn't expect to give up training.

She is working out with the team at the Eisenhower High School pool five hours a day, now from 7:30 to 10 a.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m.

"We swim in sets. Afterwards, Grish (the coach) says, 'Wait, you're doing this wrong.' And I work on it until it gets better," Wetzler said.

"During the winter I work out, go to school, come home, eat, work out with weight for an hour, work out again in the pool, eat, do the dishes," she said, pausing to grimace.

"Then I do my homework (and) go to bed — every night," she added.

Wetzler keeps a schedule that would intimidate an athlete, but manages to maintain a grade percentage average of 97.4, and play soccer, ball, soccer and softball, in addition to swimming.

Next year she'll be an eighth grader at Fontana Christian School and plans to add cheerleading to the list.

"I've been asked how she fits in all in. Wetzler just moaned a little and said, "Very carefully."

pass—ing scene

By ALTA RUTHERFORD

Staff correspondent

SAN GORGONIO PASS — Omar and George Barker, whose father, C.O. Barker, was one of the first influential businessmen in Banning, have been researching the early days of the Pass. Omar has been collecting old pictures and had them made into a slide presentation.

George has been reading the Banning Herald of 1880 and brought by copies of the paper for me to read. This particular research deals with a suit brought by John Moresco et al against Messrs. North and Gird for a part of what is now the upper Potrero as grazing land for their horses. North and Gird purchased a large parcel, although the article doesn't say from whom, on the upper Potrero and planted a large fruit ranch there.

A number of people were called to testify as to how long they had known about the Indians occupying the Potrero. And one was Daniel Sexton, who was a wood cutter in Edgar Canyon. On cross examination he detailed some bear stories that "were of such fabulous proportions that we begged the court reporter for a verbatim copy. We do not aspire to eclipse the Arabian Nights, and would not publish these recitations were they not verified under oath and a part of the records of a federal court."

Mr. Sexton's appearance as he launched forth his memories of these marvelous events, was picturesque. With eyes closed and head thrown back, the stream of his discourse flowed through facile channels from a bounteous source," wrote the Banning Herald reporter.

His testimony:

"Q. There were a great many bears in those years?"

"A. Oh, yes. I went out one time, one

evening from my camp, and I counted 50 bears within gun-shot of me, eating cherries."

"Q. Wild cherries?"

"A. They were not wild; they were not wild because they didn't scare at anything; they didn't know about being hurt, the Indians — they wasn't scared of the Indians. The Indians never killed bears."

"Q. What variety of bears they?"

"A. Grizzlies."

"Q. Did you see that more than once?"

"A. Mr. R.D. Wilson said that he went up the mountain here to Bear Lake, and he had 22 men with him, Californians, and he said that he counted 100 bears at one time, and they turned out and lassoed two and two together, and they lassoed the bear, and he brought into camp — 11 bears lassoed — he brought them into camp."

"Q. Did you kill any of them?"

"A. I think I did. I had a pile of bears laying there, and when Temple came out from Los Angeles to get lumber I showed him the pile, and I asked him how much bear meat he thought there was in the pile. He said he thought about ten tons. I think there was more than that, because I think there was more than 30 bears in the pile, and I think they weighed more than 300 pounds apiece."

"Q. Who killed all those bears?"

"A. I killed them. I harpooned them. I set three or four, and I would have three or four bears harpooned every morning."

Apparently Sexton diminished the bear population to nothing.

Tom Hughes explained the bear story in his "History of Banning," but simply as a tale of early days. Not as testimony in a court case.

And it's been interesting to note that the editor was in favor of North and Gird keeping their ranch and developing the land, and was not interested in the fact that the Indians had occupied it for generations.

bulletin board

Bridge closed
BARSTOW — The First Avenue viaduct and Mo-Java River bridge will be closed June 23-26 for resurfacing.

City officials are recommending that motorists use the left lane on Lenwood Road river crossings during the closure.

Widowed persons
BARSTOW — The Barstow Area Widowed Persons Service is looking for volunteers to help counsel people who have lost a spouse recently.

The group has scheduled a three-day training seminar for counselors from 1 to 4 p.m. June 24, 25 and 26 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 512 Williams St.

For more information, contact the Barstow Sen-

Dallas Morley
YUCCA VALLEY — The Sandra Hayden Memorial Foundation has announced that pianist and entertainer Dallas Morley has been chosen recipient of its annual award.

A Pennington resident since 1947, she played at the Red Dog Saloon and the Golden Station Cafe there, as well as traveling a part throughout the country.

Morley entertained at the 1979 Foundation barbecue, although she was too ill to play the piano.

Prizes will be awarded in various categories and raised at the annual artists will sell their work.

Artists
CHERRY VALLEY — The Riverside County Art and Culture Center will sponsor its 14th annual summer outdoor Art Show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 27 on the Edward Dean Museum grounds, 9601 Oak Glen Road.

Artists from all over Southern California will participate. Included will be ceramics, glass, jewelry, photography, watercolors, oils, graphics and fabric arts.

Prizes will be awarded in various categories and raised at the annual artists will sell their work.



Chuck Stark and his silent flying machine.

He soars with eagles in his glider

By PAT MELLENGRUB

RANCHO CUCAMONGA — Chuck Stark finished adjusting the wings to the sky. He stepped back and gave a little nod of approval.

The glinting white glider nestled on the green lawn near the aeronautics building at Chaffey College, one wing tip resting on the

ice. It could have been a piece of sculpture, a streamlined modern work of art representing the ultimate in flying efficiency.

But this was no inanimate object. Listening to Stark, an aeronautics instructor who has taught at Chaffey College for 14 years, describe soaring in the one-seat German-made Labele (which means Dragonfly) brings the word of art to life.

"Sometimes you're flying with soaring birds — vultures, hawks and occasionally an eagle," Stark said.

"Near the ocean cliffs gulls will fly in formation with a glider," he said.

"But then, you're doing what they're doing, circling up through a thermal — a rising column of hot air — to gain altitude. They're unbelievable in flight," he said of his flying companions.

Stark, who said he has "shabbled" with gliders since he was in high school, in 1953, recently completed the second of three "diamond" tasks set by the international agency that oversees gliding.

He soared 326 miles — 310 was required — from the El Mirage airport to Cedar City, Utah. The flight took six hours and 45 minutes.

Diamond tasks follow gold medal tasks and each task presents a more difficult challenge designed to increase efficiency and expertise, he said.

Stark was nonchalant about the mechan-

ics of his Utah trip, but eloquent about the beauty of the countryside past the mountains as he neared Las Vegas.

However, that was also the only spot Stark said he thought he might have to land.

Somewhere near Lake Mead, Stark said, "I was a couple of thousand feet off the ground and I had a field picked out to land in."

"Then I saw a small cloud developing — a thermal — and I headed for it."

When he landed in Utah, about 7:45 p.m., the air was crystal clear and cold and there was snow on the peaks, he said.

"It was hot here when we left," he said. "You never know where you'll end up."

Stark was followed on the ground by a crew that remained in radio contact. Such a flight requires a lot of coordination, he said. The ideal situation is for the ground crew to travel ahead of the glider, he added.

But that doesn't always happen.

The ground crew loses time when it stops for gas, Stark said. If the weather conditions are such that the glider pilot can "dolphin fly," the crew can get left far behind.

Delphin flying is when the glider climbs into one cloud, dives under the next and repeats the process across the sky, skipping along at speeds of more than 100 miles an hour.

"It's almost like a power plane," Stark said.

More often than not, the glider pilot needs to circle under a cloud and gain altitude, which allows the ground crew time to move ahead, he said.

Stark also described mountain waves, which are strong westerly flows that deflect over the mountains and take gliders to great heights.

The best area for that type of flying is in the high desert around California City, he said.

Although the maximum altitude a glider may reach legally is 18,000 feet, the Federal Aviation Administration will upon request retrieve a glider in an area create a "wave window" for gliders for a short period of time, he said.

Stark said he has climbed to 23,000 feet, but the ceiling is unlimited.

"It depends on how much cold you can stand. At 23,000 feet the temperature is zero to 20 below. It's chilly on the toes."

At that altitude a pilot's breath forms ice crystals on the inside of the canopy unless an inner lining is taped in place to create a dead air space, he said.

The rewards of soaring far outweigh the problems, he believes.

The worst thing Stark said he could think of in soaring to Utah was "trying to be cramped." He said the pilot wears a parachute and is restricted in movement by the shoulder harness and seat belt.

"It's like sitting in a church pew for six hours. Your rear end gets flat," he said.

But that apathy is no deterrent and the discomfort is soon forgotten because Stark is planning the third and last diamond task. It is to pick a goal, fly to it and return without landing and covering 100 miles for the trip.

Sometimes in the next few months, the sleek, white "Dragonfly," with its 49-foot wing span and weighing less than 500 pounds, will take off from El Mirage again and land with Stark at the controls soaring with eagles and, as he said, "in harmony with my surroundings."