

IN 'EXCHANGE'

Schmitt Family Hosts Visitors from France

By KAY DeBORD
Women's Editor

The well-known phrase "always room for one more," has necessarily been expanded to "two more" in the busy, active household of Dr. and Mrs. Francis J. Schmitt at 31211 Brown, in Garden City.

The expansion came with the arrival of two houseguests Francois Estrangin, 17, and Franck Hamaide, 17, both of Paris, France.

The French youths are "exchanging" visits with two of the Schmitt sons, Paul, 18 and Mark, 17, their guests in Paris for a recent six-week stay.

PAUL SCHMITT, who left this week to take up dentistry studies at the University of Michigan, was the guest of Francois' family in their Paris apartment, and also stayed at a Boy Scout Camp near Marseilles.

Mark Schmitt, a senior at Garden City West High School, found his counterpart in his effervescent young host, Franck, whose family also occupies a Paris apartment.

The four were among the 100 American and some 22 French young people taking part in the Foundation for International Freedom program, co-sponsored by the Detroit Archdiocesan Christian Family Movement and the CFM Chicago.

Dr. Schmitt, well-known Garden City dentist, and his wife, are finding the new additions fitting right into the family circle, already made up of seven boys and five girls ranging in age from 22 years to five months.

OF LATE, the badinage and usual chitchat, part and parcel of any home containing teenagers, has taken on a bilingual aspect—however, there is nothing lost in the translation.

Interviewed by the writer, the French youths agreed that they like the friendly exchange between neighboring families they have been introduced to as the Schmitt's guests—and they are also very much in favor of the warm interest of the people they have met while here. Also high on their list of "likes" is the informality of customs and manners.

The "dislikes" they admit to, such as they are, include the modern dances (line dances "out" in the states, are the thing with the younger set in Paris and its environs,) such as the "Monkey," the "Frug," and others.

BOTH UNDERSTANDABLY prefer the French cuisine, whereas their counterparts in the Schmitt household staunchly uphold the conglomerate American menu—in audible manner.

In contrast to the classic and semi-classic music that are

considered much more "the thing" in their native country, both Francois and Franck can be seen hovering over the record players at the Schmitt home, where the Beatles and their fellow recording groups give out with the latest favorites.

With an approximate four weeks to go on their visit, the visitors have already shared group excursions to Camp Dearborn, and the University of Michigan, with several other such trips yet to go. These are in addition to the regular social activities that include the Schmitt family and their circle of friends.

JUST AS Paul and Mark had experiences to relate to the family on their return to the United States, so will Francois and Franck have something to tell.

And possibly among the descriptions of drive-in restaurants, gigantic shopping centers, nuclear reactors, and dances—they will do their bit toward better Franco-American relations by giving their impressions of the people who were deeply interested in all they could learn about the people of France.