

Second Report From United Kingdom

By Judy Longenecker
HVE Ambassador

Now looking back on my stay in Scotland I believe, Burns and it best. I was almost like home even though I was a stranger in its midst.

Her mantle large of greenish hue

My gazing wonder chiefly drew
Deep lights and shades, bo'd
muzzling thow A luster
grand

And seem'd to my astonished
view

A well known land
Except verse 12 from A
vision by Robert Burns

But as one wee lassie said
You aren't a foreigner you
on't speak a foreign language
his, of course was true we
ll spoke English I might add
that the dialects of different
counties were quite evident

While in Scotland I was hosted by members of the Scottish Young Farmers Clubs. The Young Farmers Clubs are open to membership for all between 14 and 25 with competition in almost every imaginable area. The Club also presents educational opportunities, international exchanges, and plenty of social activities. I found the movement quite strong and very influential in the rural youth. I only regret that we (in the States) don't have a similar organization for the youth of our area. The group spirit was fantastic.

Five other exchangees and myself arrived in Edinburgh Scotland on July 14 after spending eleven hours on a bus from London. No one needs to describe the pleasure of an overnight bus ride—minus sleep!

While in Edinburgh we attended the second International Rural Youth Rally held at Inverleith the national headquarters for the Scottish Young Farmers Clubs. Competition in five agricultural areas and one area of domestic science (home economics) was held for participants from the five countries of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The Rally also included 20 overseas exchangees giving us time to meet the other exchangees and the native Britons. There were conferences, lectures and social activities in the evening. After a delightful four days we all separated to go our own ways. Many friends richer some to return home others of us to go on to new host families.

My first host family in Scotland the Nicholls lived in the county of Angus. As I was quite happy to learn they had 250 beef cattle and 340 acres on which potatoes, barley and grass were raised. It was here I first encountered 'paddock grazing' of beef cattle. The Scots graze their beef cattle by paddocks (lots) and in this way, fatten the cattle for market with no protein concentrate.

While in Angus County I visited the Airthrope Abbey, site of the signing of Scottish Independence in 1320. I also visited Aberdeen one of the neatest cities I have ever seen. A very large majority of the buildings are made of granite which is rather colorless but neat. They had an abundance of gardens which added color to the city.

Another day trip found me in the Scottish Highlands acres of heather (not quite in bloom), high mountains, hundreds of sheep, and narrow twisted roads. Here in the Highlands it seems to be an existence where a farmer might have three or four good fields for cultivation and the remainder hill country for grazing. I found the farmers also used common graz-



Judy Longenecker

ing areas branding and ear tagging their sheep for identification. After an eventful 10 day stay in Angus I moved on.

This time, the farm was southeast of Edinburgh about 20 miles in Midlothian County. Again, I was living with a young couple the Middlemass. As luck was going great for me — it was another beef operation of 150 head of fattening cattle in 450 acres of corn (grain) crops and grass. The main corn crops were wheat, barley and oats. Here too, paddock grazing was practiced.

While with the Middlemass I enjoyed more everyday living than previously, as most families seemed to find plenty of time to go on trips to points of interest. Here were 10 days of everyday living plus having a hand in some work.

I got my first look at a seaside resort — no not what you may be thinking of—billboards, concession stands and the rest. Rather, a delightful town of Berwick on the North Sea, with a nice harbor for boating and a long sandy beach for roaming. Which I must admit I did and if one could 'have seen me they'd know' Blue jeans that were rather soaked! I guess water is wet isn't it?

While here, I returned to Edinburgh for the third time. This time to tour the Edinburgh Castle which I had lived next door to, but time didn't permit a visit a shopping spree on Princes Street, the busiest street in Europe and a great shopping area. Maybe it's the spectacular natural beauty of its gardens, loch and trees, the elegance of the Georgian architecture, cobblestone streets, or maybe it's the contrast with the modern elements that makes me feel Edinburgh is the most fabulous city I've seen. Somehow I hope to return before coming back to the States.

On two previous occasions, I had attended the British Commonwealth Games. The Games

were held at Meadow Bank Stadium in Edinburgh, Scotland's first national and international sports centre. The games are held every four years for the countries of the Commonwealth. There were 42 countries competing this year. I was most fortunate to attend the Closing Ceremonies, which were officially closed by Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth. The ceremony included a pipe and drum band, who were clad in traditional Scottish kilts. I will

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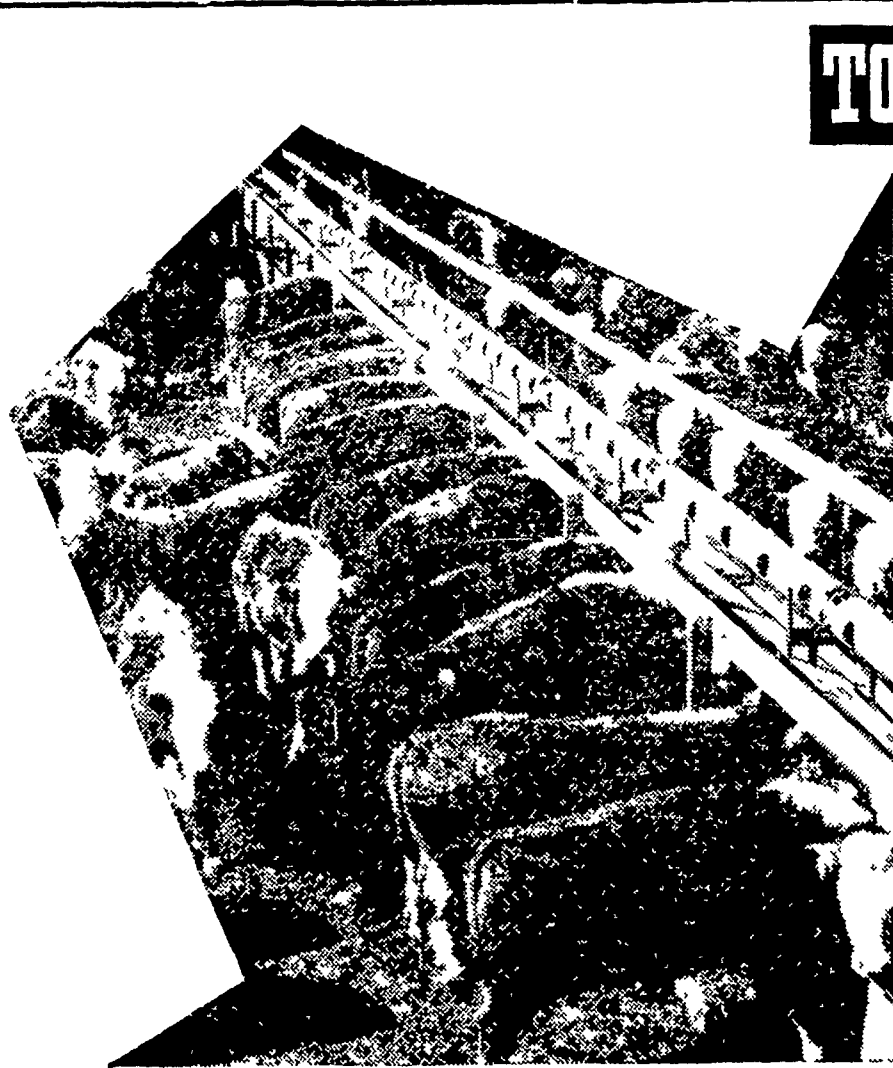
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