

IFYE Sees Lots of 'Bugs' and Gayly Painted Trucks in Brazil

Editor's Note: Miss Davida McCartney, Chester Springs, Chester County, is an International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) delegate assigned to a Youth Development Project in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where she is assisting in the development and expansion of 4-H type programs. Following is her report on transportation in Sao Paulo:

Before I left the States someone asked me to find if it was true that when it rained in Sao Paulo the pedestrians walked across the roofs of the cars instead of the streets. I haven't seen it yet, but it would be almost possible if the number of cars and their closeness in the streets were the only things to consider.

Sao Paulo is a very rapidly growing city, as indicated by the traffic problems. The streets are just as full as in Philadelphia or New York City, but there must be twice as many cars because they are all pint-sized!

It looks like the "bugs" have taken over the city! There are Volkswagens, Ford Corceles, Chevrolet Opalas, and all kinds of little cars.

The prestigious cars, like Ford Galaxies, LTD's, Dodge Darts,

and larger Chevrolets take up the space of almost two of the smaller ones and are very sparsely scattered in the mass.

Gasoline and autos are quite expensive in Brazil. The ones already mentioned are "industria Brasileira." The imported ones are really out of sight for most people.

The majority of people use public transportation. The City has a large bus system and the fare is just over seven cents per ride.

A quick glance at the traffic gives the impression that half the cars in the streets are taxis. You don't usually phone for a taxi, just go out to the street and stick out your arm.

We YDP's have a problem in using taxis, though. There are three of us (and we're not small people) and usually one more person to go. It's rather difficult for us to fit into a VW with one front seat removed! It takes a little longer until a larger (but still small) taxi comes along, and even then it's a squeeze.

A subway is being built in Sao Paulo, so soon some of the traffic problem will be relieved. A good system of buses and trains runs to the interior.

Once you leave the big city, the



Miss Davida McCartney
IFYE Delegate to Brazil

cars are still small but now the roads are frequented by huge trucks. The majority of trucks aren't tractor trailers, but they are immense! Some haul cattle, but most have sides less than two feet high and are used for anything you can think of, from crates of eggs, sacks of coffee, peanuts, or potatoes, to masses of humans.

They are used to transport workers between town and some of the large farms. At nights or on the weekends some are used to transport large numbers of people to the town for whatever entertainment there is. Once I counted almost 40 people that piled out of one of the smaller ones to attend a wedding.

Almost all of these trucks have gayly painted sides and many have decorated wooden mud flaps. Some of the decorations remind me of some of the shapes used by the Pennsylvania Dutch, but the total effect isn't the same. Bright colors are used for the usually hand painted designs. The number of different designs seems endless.

In the smaller towns there are always several tractors parked along the streets. For the families that have a tractor but no car, this is often the means of transportation. Almost every tractor has a place for a board seat behind the driver and many have homemade wooden platforms so more people can ride. It's not rare to see whole families aboard their tractors.

One of the most common vehicles in the interior is the VW bus or "Kombi". It can carry lots

of people or lots of produce when the middle seat is removed.

Even though there seems to be a great deal of motor traffic, the horse and burro play an important role. Bread is delivered either by bicycle or small horse drawn cart. Even in the metropolis of Sao Paulo there are vegetable and other vendors that use horses. In the small towns there are almost as many horse drawn as motorized taxis.

Small horses are ridden a lot, too. They often stand patiently "parked" along the curb while the rider is attending to business. The only big horses I've seen were mounted by Sao Paulo city police.

Let's not forget the pedestrian. Life for him is safer outside the city of Sao Paulo! In the interior the peasants without other means of transportation put lots of kilometers on their shoes, or just as often, their flip-flops or bare feet.

But what I'll remember most about the transportation in Brazil are the masses of pint-sized cars, the gigantic gayly painted trucks, and no parking meters to feed along the streets!

Swanson Joins Job Program

Arlo G. Swanson has resigned as deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to accept a position in Washington, D.C., State Agriculture Secretary Jim McHale announced recently.

Swanson, who joined the Department last March as deputy secretary for programs, will become national director of the Green Thumb and Green Light programs founded by the U.S. Department of Labor and sponsored by the National Farmers Union.

The programs operate under a \$7.2 million federal grant and are aimed at providing meaningful employment and supplemental income for older persons largely in rural areas. Under the Green Thumb banner, men work on conservative, beautification and community betterment projects. Under the Green Light banner, women perform such jobs as clerks, school lunchroom aides and librarians.

Local municipalities or organizations contribute 10 per cent of the local project's cost with the balance coming from the national fund. The program is operating in 17 states, including Pennsylvania.

When Swanson joined the Department he was serving as vice president and assistant manager of the Kanabec State Bank, Mora, Minn. He also had been state director of the Farmers Home Administration in South Dakota.

'Waste' is Twin Valley YF Topic

Topic at the Twin Valley Young Farmer Association meeting November 15 will be "Sewage and Waste Disposal" with Albert Trexler of the Berks County Soil and Water Conservation Service speaking.

All area farmers are invited to attend the meeting which begins at 7:30 p.m. in the vocational agriculture classroom of the Twin Valley High School.

A young farmer also will give a 15 minute talk on his farming program and a discussion of some things he has done properly and improperly in his farm program in the past.

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