



Mike Peifer, Manheim RD1, (right), shows off one of his 4-H capons to his visitor, Mark Chapman, from Monroe County,

Michigan. Mark and 37 other Michigan 4-H'ers spent last week with host families here.

Mich. 4-H'ers

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stricter project guidelines used here also have advantages. "Having a set project makes sure you know how to sew a straight line or set in sleeves or put in a zipper before you go to more difficult projects. It helps you learn what you need to know. By the time you get to the free lance sewing project you can do what you want, and you have the skills to do it."

Mrs. Moll added, "Having more guidelines for projects is probably especially helpful when working with new clubs." She helps with the 4-H club at home and has four 4-H children, and one who is still too young to join 4-H. She added, "The more open concept of projects has just come about in the last few years."

Clothing projects in Michigan are referred to as "personal appearance projects," and Josie is a member of a state committee which helped to establish "values and goals" for the project. Construction is no longer the most important item in judging clothing; the emphasis now is on personal appearance.

Josie, 16, has been a 4-H'er for five years, and is a member of the Farmers and Belles 4-H Community Club. She has had sewing, cooking, gardening and

teen leadership projects. Her father farms about 200 acres, and they will be raising steers in the fall. She is a member of the 4-H council and the Service Club, which earns money for county-wide improvement projects. She is also a member of the recreation team which assists local clubs and the "awareness" team, whose job it is "to promote 4-H work."

Kathy is not a farm girl, but has been a member of the Sand Creek Bobcats community club for eight years. She is currently

secretary, and has sewing and photography projects. She's a member of the Servicer Club, and since graduation is working in a local bank.

Another difference in project work there is that while the club meets year round, most project work is done in the winter, and their equivalent of round-up is held in late March or early April. For clothing projects, there are district style shows for girls under 14 and a county-wide evaluation for those over 14.

All 4-H projects can be

exhibited at the county fair in August, which is round-up for animal projects. In the case of clothing, suggestions made by the judges can be heeded and clothing faults corrected before they are displayed at the fair.

The differences between the Lancaster and Michigan 4-H'ers do not appear to be great. One small problem is a "slight language barrier." The Lancaster Countians claim their guests have a Michigan accent, but the Michigan 4-H'ers couldn't quite get used to those Pennsylvania Dutch accents either. And it was a new experience for most to have red beet eggs, shoo fly pie and sugared iced tea! Basically, they agreed that the food was not too different.

Many friendships have been continued from Lancaster County's visit to the three Michigan counties last summer. Nancy, who will be a Penn State freshman in the fall, had lived with Josie's family last year. They had already planned last summer some of the things they would do when Josie got here. And in the spring they met in Gettysburg when Josie traveled there with her high school class.

Mrs. Moll, whose daughter Roxanne is along on the trip, said, "We thoroughly enjoyed the two 4-H'ers who stayed with us last year, and we kept talking about those two kids from Pennsylvania all winter. So when they needed chaperones for the trip, someone volunteered us, and we

agreed. We are really enjoying it. It's a new experience for us - we've never chaperoned."

Nancy said her two guests fit into the family very well. "Both the girls have two girls and two boys in their families and so do we. It's the kind of family situation we're all used to."

The exchange "does a lot of good," according to Mr. Moll. "It gives you an opportunity to see things you've never seen before, like tobacco growing. You also learn that people are different and have different expressions." Such exchanges also make you "more familiar with your own area," he said. "What is of interest to other people may be something that you otherwise wouldn't look at."

The 4-H'ers arrived last Sunday afternoon and left for Michigan this morning. Their only side trip was a visit to the Gettysburg Battlefield on the way here.

While in the county, they took a tour with their hosts on Monday and visited the Wax Museum and Elmer D. Lapp's farm at RD1, Kinzers. They also enjoyed a county council-sponsored square dance at the Charles Myers Black and White Barn, and a farewell picnic at Mike Peifer's farm.

They go home with a better understanding of Lancaster County, and a much deeper awareness that rural people everywhere are basically alike. As Mark put it so well, "We're just all hard-working farmers."

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