20-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, Feb. 8, 1975

# **Area Youth Serves**

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[Continued from Page 1] to their villages with equipment and initial medicine supplies to begin their work.'

The girls charge no fee for medical attention but sell the required drugs in order to make money to reinforce their own supplies.'

The village must supply the house or building for the medical technician although most of her supplies are

given by the Church organization.

As a volunteer, Linda did not have any formal orientation and did not speak the native Spanish language when she first began her duties.

"It took me about a year to learn Spanish well enough to communicate with the people."

Linda explained that the clinic has been very well

"Your Pigs

Will Love

Magic-Ray"

in the early 70's. "Many of the people in the

surrounding areas use our services and some walk 3-4 hrs. from the outlying districts also."

Although many of the villages send girls to be trained some of the more backward people under the influence of "quack doctors" will not come to the clinics or send their girls to be educated.

"In those types of villages we do not force our services on them since the doctors have too much rigid influence.'

Often, the medical team from the clinic visits the village centers to check on the work of the technicians. It was on one of these trips that Linda had an experience she will never forget.

'We were going to a village that was out in the mountains, we flew by a small plane to one village and from there we were to be taken by mules on a 4 hour ride to the village we wanted to inspect."

"We were late getting started through the mountains and we were forced to ride the mules on mountain roads during the dark. I was very frightened and was very happy to reach the village that night."

"It rained and was cloudy for the next day and our plane could not land at the first village to pick us up - we had to wait until the next day which made us somewhat apprehensive."

When asked how the conditions differed in Central American country Linda commented in this manner.

"The large cities are much like our US cities with large modern buildings and most of the comforts."

"The rich people live in ranch yle type houses while the poorer people live in adobe houses with tile roofs."

Linda explained that most



In appreciation of her volunteer work, Linda's friends at the Swamp United Church of Christ recently presented her with an inscribed silver tray.

of the larger cities have months. movies and sports and even the smaller villages have stores from which to select items.

"American style food can be purchased in the large cities Linda explained "but in the small villages the people usually eat beans, corn, rice and tortillas." Very little meat is eaten she explained and then it is only about once every one or two

The main subsistence for the villagers is agriculture with the main crop being coffee. The village people raise their own crops but coffee is the main cash crop involved.

An interesting note on the agricultural aspect was revealed when Linda remarked about the farmers' crops.

"When the crops fail or a

natural disaster occurs such as the Honduran flood, the farmers must absorb their own losses as the government offers no subsidies."

In some of the cities, industry offers some employment however not enough to substantiate the whole country.

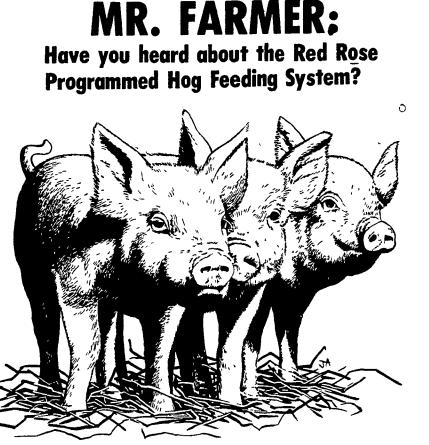
The work always keeps Linda busy although she admitted that there is some free time for swimming and going to movies in the main cities.

Linda has been a volunteer for the past year and a half and is planning on continuing her work with the Honduran people.

Linda has been a member of Farm Women Society 3 and plays the piano as well as sews when she is home. She was also a member of the Jolly Caterers and the Lincoln 4-H Club.

While not every young person can travel to other countries Linda has much moral support behind her as the young people's group of her church appreciates the work she has done.

A few weeks ago when she was home for a vacation, Linda received a silver plate from the group inscribed with a message that reinforced their pride and appreciation of her work.



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