

Exchange

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He said the trip was a great way "to go out west and get to meet 4-H'ers." He and his brother agreed that the group also learned a great deal on the way out. The 4-H'ers spent one night in 4-H homes in Indiana, and they learned about the Missouri 4-H program on a one night visit there.

Ruth Ann Irwin, 14, Landisville, lived on a 2,000 acre farm, but spent much of her time at a 3-day family reunion which was scheduled during her visit. She said she loved the mountains - "I took so many pictures." She added, "I wanted to stay longer in Colorado, but I do

appreciate Lancaster County more." She characterized the people as being "really warm." Her host family actually lived in Utah.

For Cherri Gochbauer, the short stay in Colorado was just enough to whet her appetite. She said, "I would really like to live there. It is too populated here. The people seemed really friendly and they were not in a hurry like they are here."

Sixteen-year-old Cherri, a member of the Silver Spurs 4-H Club, said, "I really liked the experience and enjoyed the trip out as well." She particularly enjoyed the one night stay in Indiana where she stayed on a farm "where all we could see was fields."

For Bernie Nissley, 14,

Mount Joy, the real value of the exchange was getting to see other parts of the country and meeting more people. "You also get to know other 4-H programs and how they work." He said he also got to know the 4-H'ers from this county on the trip.

Barry lived on a 2,000 acre ranch, of which 1600 acres were farmed and the rest was "wasteland." The crops were alfalfa, pinto beans and wheat, and basically the only difference he noted was that the equipment is bigger than here. He said his host ranch was located one half hour from the mountains and one half hour from the desert. But he did have neighbors less than a mile away.

One thing he observed was that only the large main roads were macadam - the rest were dirt.

Dwight Houser, 17, a Red Rose Baby Beef Club member, agreed with the observation about the roads. Dwight said, "Most roads were stone and dirt, and it was so dry that you could see someone coming for miles because of the clouds of dust."

The ranch where Dwight lived was owned in partnership. They owned 2600 acres, with 1600 under cultivation, and the rest in canyons and pasture land. He characterized the land as "rolling." Of interest to him was their alfalfa hay which normally yields just two cuttings as opposed to the three to four cuttings we are accustomed to here. The alfalfa on his ranch was grown in 36-inch rows. The explanation given, according to Dwight, was that because



Martha Gregory (left) talks over her experiences on the exchange trip with Kim Martin and Wayne Erb.

of the low amount of moisture (17-18 inches per year) planting it in rows helped it get taller and therefore made better hay.

Dwight said the topography was definitely different from here. "There was one field which was one mile long." Dwight helped to turn over hay bales on that field, so he can testify to just how much time it takes to cover the length of a field that long.

He said a visit to that part of the country, while interesting, merely "makes you more thankful for what you do have. I wouldn't want to live there."

He said the trip also made him realize that the United States "is a lot bigger than I realized." He mentioned the

large wheat fields in Kansas which were being harvested as they traveled through and said, "The fields were as long as the eye could see."

Roberta Stine, 15, Mountville, talked about the irrigation. She said, "They need to irrigate because they can't depend on the rain - it hardly ever rains there."

Roberta said she liked the trip because "We got to meet so many people - including people from Lancaster County." She echoed the sentiment of many when she said, "I'm ready to go again, and I would like to have stayed longer. It was a lot of fun."

Martha Gregory, 15, Lititz, had the distinction of living 200 miles from the center of the five county area where

they stayed. She also lived at 5,000 feet which she said tended to make her tire easily. She was amazed at the irrigation, saying, "They even had to irrigate their lawns." She added that their gardens were irrigated too, and were smaller than ones she knew here.

She said it hadn't rained for three weeks prior to her visit, but it rained slightly every day while she was there.

For Lancaster Countians, accustomed to the lush green countryside and favorable growing conditions, the trip was an eye-opener - and an exciting change. Next year when the Colorado 4-H'ers visit here they, too, will be surprised at the vast differences.

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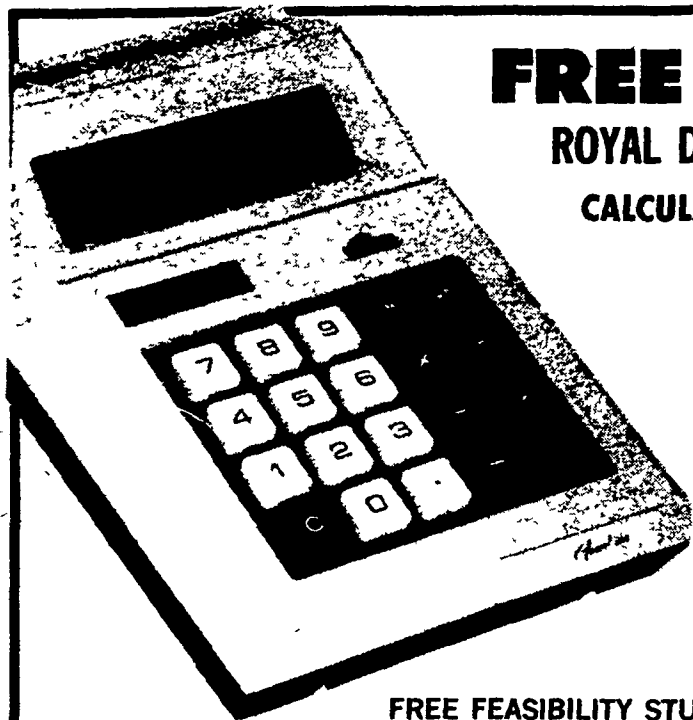
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