

Country Corner

4-H experiences change

By MELISSA PIPER

Being involved with youth activities throughout the year, I am often reminded of my own life growing up on a farm and my ten years spent in 4-H work.

My older brother and two sisters had been 4-Her's some time before I was old enough to join and often I accompanied them to the meetings - watching intently and learning about the organization from an onlooker's point of view. I could barely wait until I was old enough to join our community club and get started on projects of my own.

The other members of my family had taken sheep as livestock projects but my father suggested that I should raise a feeder pig instead. I wasn't sure if that would be the ideal project to begin with but Dad's confidence gave me hope.

Early that spring I selected (quite by random) a small black crossbred pig, from a neighbor's farm and began my 4-H career. After a month of carrying feed and water and filling out the project book with all kinds of facts and figures, I wasn't too sure I had made the correct decision about joining 4-H. For all the work seemed like too much responsibility for a nine-year-old, but with the encouragement of my

parents, prodding of my sisters and with the help of my leaders, I stayed with the program to the end of that first year.

In spite of my grumblings about feeding the animal, the pig grew from 40 pounds to 250 pounds over the summer months and by late August it was ready for the market. I remember feeling rather sad when it left the farm and yet proud that at least I had accomplished one task in finishing the project. A blue ribbon tucked inside of my project book, after the judging, didn't hurt to raise my confidence either. And even in September, I was looking forward to the next year and another project.

While that first year had seemed quite long, the following seasons flew by rather quickly and along with taking projects, I realized that I actually had the time to become involved in many extra activities accompanying the 4-H programs.

Being involved in 4-H taught me a great deal of responsibility along with meeting people and traveling to places I might never had done outside the program. To this day, I feel fortunate that I had the opportunity to join such an organization and to reap its many benefits. As I watch 4-H being expanded to include many of the suburban and city youth as well as the farming communities, I am hopeful that the responsibilities it teaches, will help our society develop more young people with purpose in life.

Youth learns

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She added, "They seem to have accepted the division of Germany. There is now only 40 percent of the population who lived through the war, so the strong emotional ties are fading."

Her visit to West Berlin made a big impression on Fay. Her host family lived along the outside perimeter of the city, which meant she lived daily with "the wall," within eyesight of the towers and minefields and within earshot of the ringing gunfire at night. Her host parents had been refugees from East Berlin, having left everything behind to live in the West.

"The Wall is strange thing to see," Fay said. "To see people walking and to know that they couldn't come over to the West was very puzzling and very depressing."

She traveled to East Berlin and talked with friends of her host family who still lived there. One big difference she said is that there are no cars. She said, "Maybe they didn't have material things but they seemed to have more of a 'community.'" In her opinion, she said, "They do fear the secret police."

As for her family in the West, she said, "they take the Wall for granted now, and they felt secure - that they had no real danger."

Is the IFYE program successful? Fay said she feels it would be presumptive of her to say grandly that she has made a contribution to world peace, and besides, that did not enter her thinking as she lived daily with her German hosts. She did relate the following anecdote:

On the calling cards which she distributed it explained the IFYE program by saying: "A program for developing peace and understanding throughout the world." One host father read it and told her he really thought that was happening through her visit.

Perhaps it was a very small way, but Fay Stoner certainly has had an impact on the seven families with whom she lived in Germany, and they likewise have had an influence on Fay.

"This is my home, the country where my heart is, Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine. But other hearts in other lands are beating With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine."

Decorating seminar set

The Chester County Extension Service in cooperation with the Armstrong Company will present a series of programs on home decorating ideas, helpful buying tips, and "how-to" information using the newest trends in interior design and home decorating.

Judy Wade, an Armstrong Consultant, along with local representatives will present these educational programs providing useful consumer information and answer questions related to costs, installation procedures and maintenance.

The series is free and open to the public.

The series will be held on four consecutive Tuesdays from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. at the Extension Office, Paul B. Dague Bldg., 235 W. Market St., West Chester.

The programs begin on Tuesday, January 20, 1976 with Do-it-Yourself featuring numerous money-saving ideas for improving your home interiors.

Flooring will be the topic for Tuesday, January 27, 1976, discussing the types available, buying tips, installation, and maintenance.

Carpeting will be the topic for Tuesday, February 3, 1976 considering the variety of fibers and construction available, how to care for your floor coverings and how to install it.

The series concludes with Ceilings on Tuesday, February 10, 1976 discussing types available, and how to maintain and install ceilings.

For further information or for pre-registration contact the Extension Office, 696-3500.

Rush Seat Workshop

Learn to reweave rush chair seats with a course conducted by the Chester County Extension Service. The classes will be a series of three meetings held on Tuesdays, January 20, 27 and February 3, 1976 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Extension Office, 235 W. Market St., West Chester. A small fee is charged for this course, the rush for your chair is provided. If you are planning to refinish your chair, it is recommended that it be done before you replace the seat.

Registration deadline is January 9, 1976 and for further information call the Extension Office, 696-3500.

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