



Phil Risser points out the Chateaugay Valley as Cherri Gochnauer and Robert Swarr reminisce about their exchange trip.

Canadian trip broadened world for 4-H members



Linda Franz, 4-H agent, left, gets and informal report on the exchange trip to Canada from Missy Grube, Jay Stauffer, and Lashon Bussell.

HOMESTEAD NOTES

Michael Bukowski (left) and Jim Stauffer share their newly acquired knowledge of the Chatequguay Valley in the province of Quebec.



By SALLY BAIR
Feature Writer

LANCASTER, Pa. - "You get to meet so many different people on a trip like this. The people in Canada really acted themselves and accepted us as we were. They acted like they had known you all their lives." With these words, Missy Grube, 14, Elm, summed up the feelings of the Lancaster County 4-H'ers who participated on a one-week exchange program with young people from the Chateaugay Valley region in the province of Quebec, Canada.

Thirty-five teenagers and five 4-H leaders were involved in this educational trip, and of those contacted for their comments the young people seemed truly pleased at the openness with which they were received in the homes of their Canadian hosts.

Lashon Bussell, Manheim R1, agreed with Missy's evaluation, "It was like they were your own family. They didn't try to make a good impression. I liked everything about the exchange."

"The most important thing about the exchange," Phil Risser, Leola R1, said, "is that we learned to know the people there. They are about the same as anyone else - they're not any better or any worse, but just ordinary people."

"Really outgoing" is the way Cherri Gochnauer, Lancaster, described her Canadian hosts. "Everyone was so outstanding and sincere. It was just great to live in their culture for a week."

For most of the participants in the trip, the short journey across the border had the effect of making them feel like they were

in a foreign country. According to Clyde Aument, a leader in the Solanco Community Club, "We felt we were in a foreign country because they money was different, and there were definite cultural differences between the people of Quebec and us."

Furthermore, there was a difference in languages, despite the fact that the Lancaster countians visited in an English speaking section of the province. All signs were in both English and French, and several of the 4-H'ers told of incidents in stores where they were first addressed in French. Aument said proudly, "I learned five French words while I was there." Karen Hostetter, Manheim R1, said, "I learned a little bit of French."

Mrs. Carol Henkel, Strasburg, pointed out that while all communications were spoken in English, she found some very ordinary store items which were printed in both English and French: corn flakes boxes, for instance carried both languages.

For Jay Nissley, Manheim R5, however, the language problem was more immediate - he was the only member of the group to live with a French speaking family. He said, "They spoke all French, except when they spoke to me." But, it was pointed out, all families are bilingual, speaking at ease in either language, with children learning English in the schools.

The Lancaster countians took their share of kidding about the way they pronounced words. According to 16-year-old Sandy Hamilton, Lampeter, "They teased us about the way we talked. They used very proper English expressions, and

often ended a sentence by saying, 'ay'."

The ancestry of these Canadians was Scotch-Irish, which may have accounted for some of the inflection in their speaking.

Farming in this province just 20 miles over the New York border was quite different from farming in Lancaster County. Jim Stauffer, Lancaster R2, explained, "My host family had their farm surveyed and there was just 10 inches difference from one corner of their land to the other. It was really flat."

Because of this flatness, all good productive agricultural land must be drained by tiles. Aument explained that the plastic tiles are laid about 12 feet apart and the water is drained into the river. "Otherwise, the water would lay in the fields like a pool," he said.

Aument said the farms were spaced differently from here. "The farms seemed to be relatively close together, and seemed to be in more of a set pattern. They average about 150 acres." The 4-H'ers described the farms as "ribbon farms," with the land extending in a long row behind the buildings. Lashon said, "Before there was modern transportation, it was important for each farmer to have access to the river for transporting his goods."

The Chateaugay Valley is mainly dairy region, with some vegetable farming, mostly contracted for by Gree Giant Foods. The 4-H'ers reported that their Canadian hosts were having their first sweet corn when they were there from August 6 through August 13. The growing season is shorter, forcing them to grow 90 day corn. Aument said, "Their corn looked good and is used mostly as silage. Some years they get high moisture corn." Mrs. Henkel, a 4-H leader, observed, "They can grow alfalfa, but they usually get only a couple of cuttings and if they get a third cutting, they think that is really great." On Jay Nissley's host farm he said his host grew corn, hay, sorghum, and an oats and corn mixture. He said, "The crops were about the same, only shorter season." Aument observed, "The machinery was much like ours with the same brands."

The price of land is not nearly so high as here. Jim Stauffer estimated that land cost between \$200 and \$500 an acre with prices going higher for drained land. There was a lot of rocky land in evidence, left behind by a glacier, and Phil Risser explained the

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