

Polish exchangeee tells of life in homeland

By JOYCE BUYP
Staff correspondent

GLEN ROCK — An integral part of life for many farm youngsters is involvement in 4-H activities. And, that's not true just here in America, but in many countries around the world.

Through exchange programs, 4-H'ers and their families have gained invaluable international understanding of each other's dreams and problems. The most fortunate have earned the chance to live in and experience first-hand a new culture.

Zdzislaw Stanislaw "Stanley" Trojanowicz is a 28-year-old work program exchangeee from Poland. His year-long working visit began last March, when he came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Rappoldt and son, Larry, Glen Rock R1. Although the placement was to be temporary, until a permanent work assignment on a farm could be found, the family became very attached to the warm and friendly young man and

arranged that he be allowed to stay. He soon became an integral part of the family construction business.

As a representative of the International Agriculture Training Program, sponsored by the national 4-H program, Stanley was one of 100 Polish exchangeees coming here annually. Other countries taking part in the program include Hungary, the Soviet Union, and the Phillipines. Placements are being sought for exchangeees arriving each year.

Although he had studied English for only one month before coming to York County, Stanley quickly picked up the language through living and working with the Rappoldts, and he now speaks it fluently.

Stanley's father manages a 40,000 acres state farm in western Poland. A self-sufficient agriculture economic unit, the state farm is composed of 10 smaller operations, with each one focusing on the production of a particular

crop or livestock commodity. Included in the scope of the self-sufficient farm unit is the production of livestock feeds, commercial manufacturing of alcohol from potatoes and grains grown on the acreage as well as slaughterhouses and food processing facilities for on-farm workers.

The educational system in Poland is slightly different from ours, notes Stanley, who has earned his Master's Degree in mechanization of agriculture from an academy of agriculture. All students attend eight years of elementary school. Then, serving options are available, based on test results given to students who desire further training. Technical careers can be pursued through a three-year professional (vocational-technical) school. Students hoping to attend college will study for four years at the "gymnasium," the Polish equivalent of an American high school. Further examinations must be

passed for college admittance, where four years will earn a bachelor's degree, with a master's degree awarded for a fifth year of studies.

"I hope to return to a special college for my doctorate degree when I go back home," anticipates Stanley, as he considers the testing he will have to undergo to enter that next level of education.

His specialty field is in the area of manure handling; and as part of his studies, he has designed waste disposal facilities for the state farm managed by his father. Experimental work is being done both with sloped feedlots where manure is flushed and pumped into storage tanks and with direct irrigation-style pumping of waste into the fields.

Fuels from manure is another research study being tried on the state farm; and a methane gas factory from the beef manure is planned for the future.



A little bit of Poland will stay behind when Stanley Trojanowicz returns to his home land. Here he displays two costumed dolls atop a linen cloth woven on the state farm managed by his father.

Most businesses are government-owned, but some private establishments are permitted with very strict licensing. Farm land is mostly in the hands of private owners and supports small general farm operations of about 40 acres of grain crops and a variety of livestock. Sugar beets is one very popular crop, with the sugar extracted from the beets at a manufacturing facility and the remaining pulp returned to growers for livestock feed.

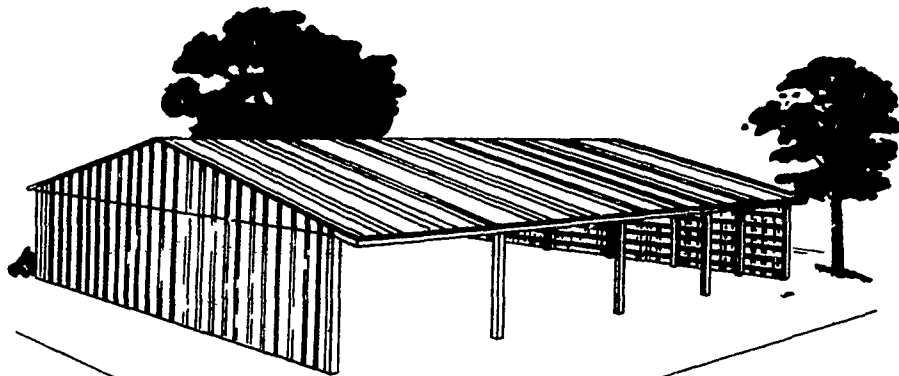
Much of the large farming equipment is owned by the government, but rented out to farmers through

"machinery unions," which growers can join. "Most farmers have a tractor," Stanley adds, but horses are still popular on many small farms." Engines for large tractors come from neighboring Czechoslovakia and caterpillar-track machines are abundant.

Stanley was married just one month before he came to the United States. His wife is a second-year mathematics student at the University of Poznan, and he expects that she may someday be working in the computer field.

(Turn to Page 116)

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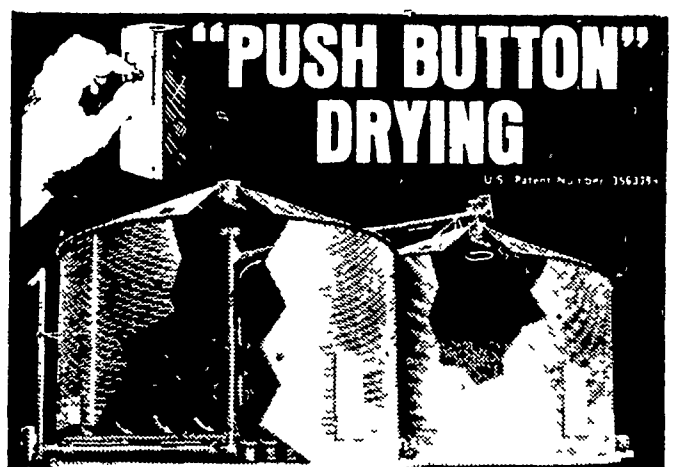
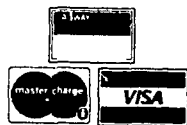
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