

Tim Dunmore

(Continued from Page 33)

ere were some people who spoke some English, and with his small German vocabulary he managed to communicate. He said the farm director spoke fluent German.

The farm had 19,000 acres, and one big industry was 900

dairy cows. The cows, he explained, were housed in four milking barns and were milked with pail milkers. The milk was poured into milk cans and transferred to a bulk tank where it was picked up by a tank truck. Each worker in the dairy had a specific job. For in-

stance, one worker might be assigned 20 cows, and he was responsible for milking them. Others were assigned other chores which went with managing the dairy herd.

Tim said that Holstein-type cows were used, just for milk production. Beef was also raised on the farm, in a very modern, minimum labor building. He said the beef animals were crossbred, with some Angus and some Charolais.

Tim feels that the farm work was not as highly mechanized as here, adding, "Some was modern, some was primitive. They have a lot of manpower on the farm." While the farm owned some horses, they were not used for field work, but for small chores around the buildings.

Crops raised on the collective farm included corn, wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, sugar beets and grass for hay. Equipment used was mainly from East Germany.

Tim observed, "The workers were dedicated to their work, but they didn't have to work exceptionally hard." The houses the workers lived in were government-owned, and most of the men working on the farm were fed their lunch at the dormitory, with the option of taking their lunch home to eat. The

wages were not high, he said, but most homes had refrigerators and radios. Television sets were more scarce.

The government paid Tim while he was living on the collective farm, about the equivalent of \$50 per week. The only restriction was that he needed to spend it within Poland. This was not difficult for him, because he spent his free time traveling.

Tim said he felt quite free while in Poland, adding, "I could go wherever I wanted to." He frequently traveled to visit the other American in Poland on the same program, and they would travel together, often by steam-powered train. "As long as I traveled with somebody, I had no problems," he said.

The Polish people "think a lot of America," Tim said, and he feels the majority of the people don't like Russia. He mentioned that the people need two passports, one which they carry with them for travel within the country, and one for travel in another country. In their free time, the Poles enjoy shopping or swimming. "A few had cars," he observed.

While he couldn't understand the news or read the newspapers, he said his Polish co-workers would tell him about things which happened of interest to him.

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He said they all seemed to know a lot about America.

Sometimes he said he would feel "a little out of touch, but after awhile, you get used to it, and it doesn't bother you."

From Poland, Tim traveled north to Finland to a hog and crop farm. The farm was located in south central Finland. He described it as having "pine trees everywhere, with gently rolling hills." Before he left Finland the pine trees were covered with snow. He said the country was "very modern and very beautiful." Tim's chores consisted of feeding the 100 feeder pigs every morning and every evening. He said the farm consisted of 100 acres, with wheat and barley and about ten acres of oats.

"The farm was self-supporting, although the weather was not that good for agriculture. Every farmer has his own grain dryer, because it won't dry in the field." Tim said the grains grown were brewing grains, used in a malt factory. Some of the soil in that part of Finland, he said, "is like pure peat moss, sometimes three feet deep. When it rained in one field, it was like a sponge."

Taxation in Finland is high, according to Tim. Property taxes are high, and people pay more in taxes for

high quality soil.

Language was not a problem for Tim in Finland. He said, "Almost everyone speaks English in Scandinavia. It is quite remarkable to find people who speak so many languages." His host family had had other FFA boys work on their farm in the past. His host mother was a children's dentist.

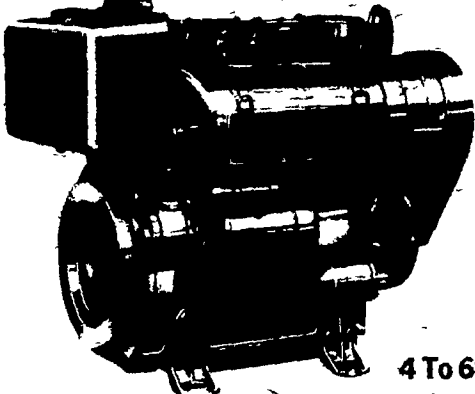
The home they lived in was just nine years old, and "very modern." It was equipped with a sauna just like "every home" in Finland, Tim said. They also had an indoor swimming pool. The sauna is a small room with wooden walls and a small firebox which is fired with wood. "You sit about three feet off the ground," Tim explained, and occasionally someone would throw water on the big stones to create steam. He said they enjoyed the sauna about twice weekly, and it was a pleasure. "It opens up your pores. We would sit on the sauna, then go swimming, then go back to the sauna."

Every morning his host father and he would take a coffee break at 10 a.m. and scan the newspapers and just rest. There was also a regular short rest time after the noon meal, the biggest meal of the day. "They lived quite good," he remarked.

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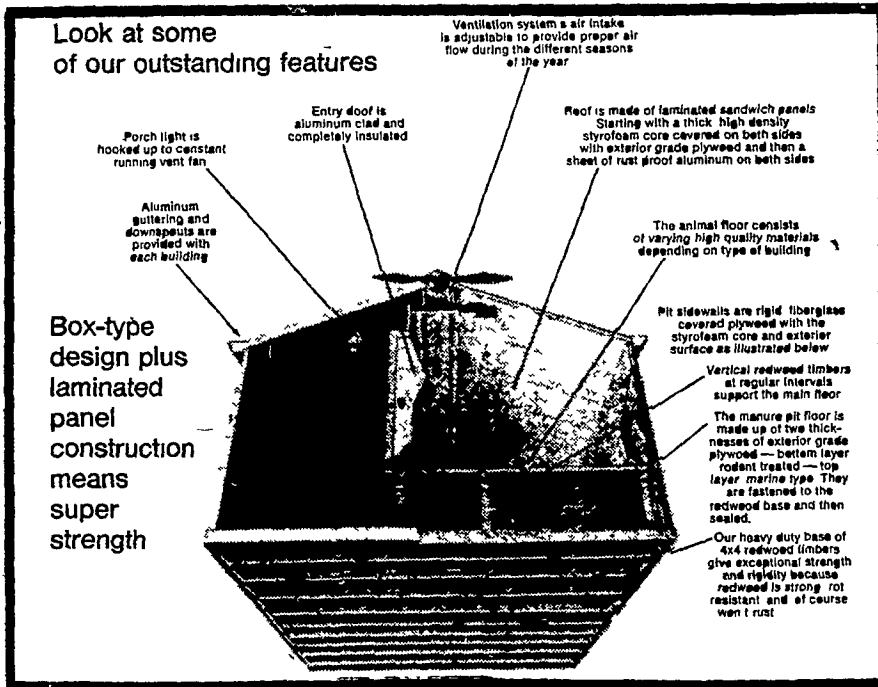
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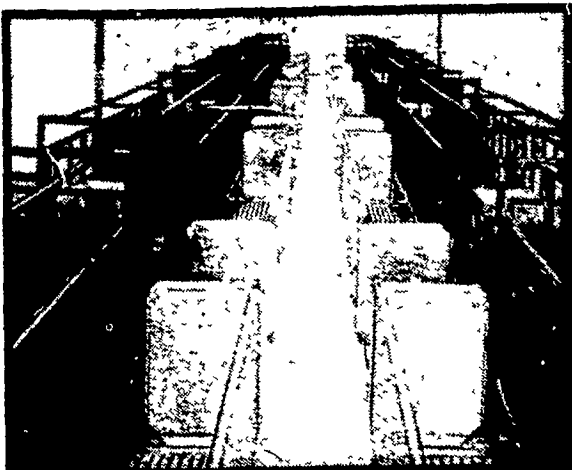


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