

Lebanon FFA'er tells of experiences in Israeli farm community

Editor's Note: This is the second in a two-part series on the experiences of Tim Dundore, 25 North Zinns Mill Road, Quentín, who traveled

to four countries as part of the Future Farmers of America's Work Experience Abroad program. QUENTIN — "When you're

traveling it's nice to settle down," Tim Dundore says. After being away from home for six months living on a collective farm in Poland and a hog farm in Finland, Tim was ready for a more settled way of life.

From Finland he traveled to Israel for what was to have been a short visit before going on to Australia. However, Tim liked the country, found a position with a kibbutz and ended up staying for eight months. This caused him to have to abandon his visit to Australia, but while he said it was a "big disappointment," he hopes he can travel there sometimes in the future.

Staying at the kibbutz was relatively easy for Tim, because they are accustomed to taking on young volunteers to help with the work, and are equipped to make the young people a part of the community. "You share a room with someone, and work six hours a day, six days a week. There were from 2 to 30 volunteers at Kibbutz Karmya, all arranged through the Ministry of Agriculture."

Tim arrived in Jerusalem just before Christmas, and with two friends walked to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve. "It's something to be remembered, but I was a bit disappointed." He visited



Tim Dundore

rain. He said water is pumped into an underground reservoir and if a kibbutz uses too much, it will be shut off for a period. Tim helped with taking pipes out of the fields, and he also worked with machinery.

Citrus is a large crop of the kibbutz he visited, with 300 acres grown and harvested. The main crop, however, was cotton, which was mechanically harvested.

Irit Lahmi is a young Israeli woman who lives at Karmya and is now visiting with Tim's family in Quentín. Her job is working in the cotton field, inspecting the crop for insects. She makes the decision if spray is needed, and says, "It is a tough decision because we spray with an airplane and it is very expensive." This year, she says proudly, she made the right decision and the crop was very good. They spray sometimes as often as twice a week, and if there is not time to mark the fields for the pilot, Irit goes and directs the spraying operation. This work is seasonal, so at other times of the year, she is assigned jobs elsewhere in the kibbutz.

Life on a kibbutz is totally controlled, Tim says. "It's a temporary way of life. You don't have anything to call your own. Everything belongs to everyone. It's an easy life. You have no worries."

Irit explains. Everyone works on the kibbutz. They are given their house, which for a married couple is a two room, single level dwelling, with children being cared for separately. You are given food, clothes and everything you need. The only money necessary is "pocket money for extras" There is a small supermarket on the kibbutz as well as an infirmary where doctors visit twice a week. There is also a dentist office. "Everybody's equal," Irit states.

The kibbutz is run by a manager who is in charge of the money, including paying

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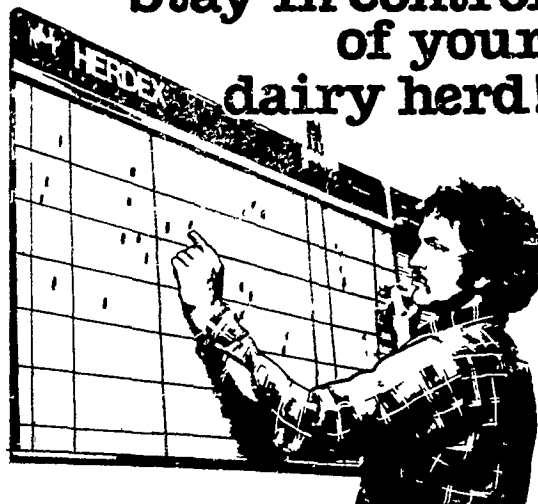
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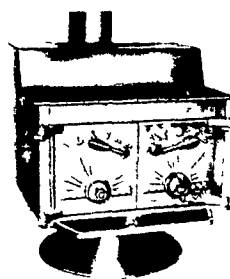
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the church which is over the original stable where Christ was born. It was so crowded, however, that church services were shown by videotape over a screen outside the church. Choir from around the world participated in the services. "It makes you think," he said.

Tim described agriculture in Israel as quite modern, with not much hand labor. Much of their agricultural equipment is from the United States. Originally, kibbutzim was organized strictly around agriculture, and was totally self-sufficient. It is no longer possible to rely just on agriculture, so they have expanded and most now have factories. Tim said the factory at Karmya made jackets, quilts, sleeping bags, pillows and other things made from synthetics for export.

The dairy was Tim's first appointed job. He said the kibbutz had about 200 head of Holstein cows, which were milked in a parlor, twenty at a time. An average of nine people worked just in the dairy, and the cows were milked three times daily, with an automatic take-off milking system.

Irrigation is an important part of agriculture in Israel, because there are five months when there is no



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