

Foreign students leave U.S. with fond memories

By SUSAN KAUFFMAN
Staff Writer

OXFORD — For the past two weeks and the next two, eleven students from foreign countries visiting Lancaster and Chester County will be returning to their native lands. These high school-aged youth have spent nearly a full year, living with families in these areas under the direction of Youth For Understanding.

This international organization was founded in 1951 to promote better appreciation and understanding among young people of many cultures and has placed over 70,000 students in homes in foreign lands.

Those students who have resided in Lancaster and Chester County this past year include five who attended Solanco High School, four who attended Oxford High, one who went to Octorara High School and one who attended Lancaster Country Day.

The Oxford students came from Finland, Sweden, Venezuela and Norway. They are Iris Kotila (Finland) who stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rohrer, Nottingham; Helena Goransson (Sweden), who lived with Mr. and Mrs. Jon Anderson, Oxford; Diana Lopez (Venezuela), who lived with Mr. and Mrs. John Parslow, Oxford and Hans Noreng (Norway), who stayed with Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Bering, Oxford.

Solanco students are Johannes Vanzutphen (Holland), who resided with Mr. and Mrs. John Mellinger, Drumore; Karin Jeppsson (Sweden) who lived with Mr. and Mrs. George Warfel, Quarryville; Johannes Zandberg (Holland) who stayed with a Kirkwood family, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Lefever; and Annette Iversen (Denmark) whose parents were Mr. and

Mrs. David Keffer, Nottingham. Maikku Kaisla (Finland) also stayed with the Keefers who served as area coordinators.

Gerald Boutista, a native of the Philippines, attended Octorara while staying with the Bob Hosier family at Parksburg. Ines Schramm stayed with the Robert Abbato family, Peach Bottom, and attended Lancaster Country Day.

Previous to their departures home late in June, a farewell luncheon was held at the home of one of the host families.

Perhaps unique to this particular group of youth were the numerous activities their host families planned for them throughout the year including square dances, dinners, tours and family visits. During those specially arranged occasions the students, all newcomers in a foreign country, seemed to gather strength and courage to attempt many new activities individually in their own classes and schools. Several of the students contributed substantially to the fine arts and sports programs of their respective American schools. All four attending Oxford High School took part in the Spring Musical with one of that number, Hans, taking a lead role.

When asked how the school systems at home compared or differed from their American schools, they all replied immediately that American schools are much

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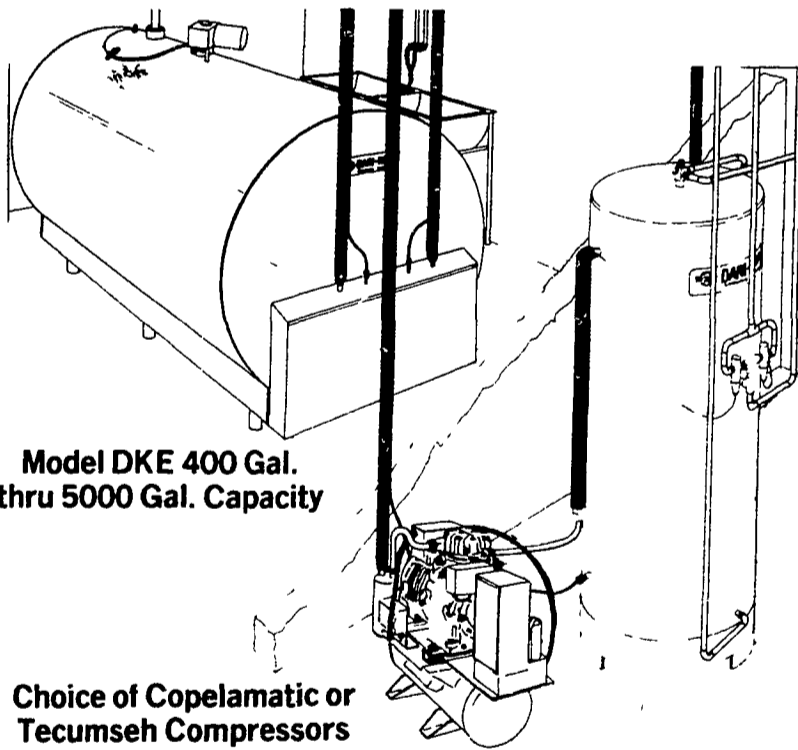
Recently gathered together for a farewell luncheon, the Youth for Understanding include, in the front row, Iris Kotila, Karin Jeppsson, Diana

Lopez, and Helene Goransson. In the second row are Ines Schramm, Maikku Kaisla, Annette Iversen, Hans Noreng, and Gerry Boutista.

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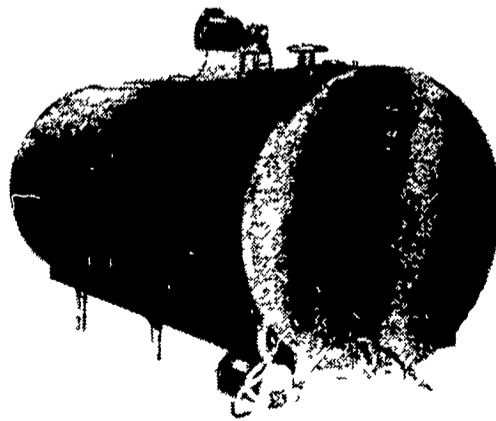
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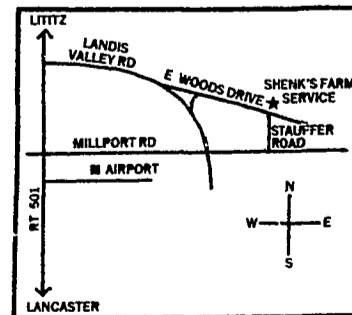
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