

# Deutsch visitors come to Deitsch land

BY SALLY BAIR  
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — Lancaster countians opened their homes to 254 West German visitors this weekend and managed to build friendships which should last a lifetime.

The West Germans, almost all from West Berlin, arrived last Friday night and will depart this afternoon from the Middletown airport.

The exchange program, arranged by Friendship Force, includes a visit by 254 Lancastrians to the German city. The Americans are likewise staying in homes while they learn to know the people of West Berlin.

The Friendship Force exchange has been bringing together people from different countries since it was founded in 1977 by President Carter.

The visiting West Germans' stay in southcentral Pennsylvania was short, but filled with visits throughout the county and to such places as Hershey, New York City, Niagra Falls and Washington, D.C. Several of the German guests were able to arrange visits with families they had met on previous Friendship Force exchanges with other states.

A visit to this area is not complete without seeing a farm, and some of the West Berliners found themselves staying with local farm families. Although the large metropolitan area of Berlin does include some farms, there were no farmers or agricultural-businessmen along on the trip.

The Josie Buckwalter family, R3 Lutz, hosted Meike and Rainer Draugelattes. They said this city couple was very happy to be on a farm.

"They like living on the farm, and say that farms

here are bigger than in Germany," Nancy said.

While sight-seeing has kept them busy, they have observed the feeding operation on this beef farm. Nancy added, "Rainer said 'everything is so clean.' He remarked that the homes are clean and the farms are well kept."

While Meike and Rainer have traveled in the United States before, and although they are from the city, they do not like New York City. Nancy said that Rainer explained "it was too busy", and one must watch one's wallet carefully.

One of the reasons the stay is so comfortable, Nancy says, is that the Draugelattes are honest and not shy. "It makes you feel comfortable. They also don't want to inconvenience you in any way and, they thank you for everything you do. They are so dear."

A side benefit for the hosts is the opportunity to see their county as they are showing it to the Germans. Nancy said, "I'm enjoying myself."

For Moses Beiler, R2 Willow Street, the German visitors from Berlin have given him the opportunity to renew his knowledge of Berlin which he and his wife visited several years ago on a bicycle tour of Europe. "We have some limited knowledge of Berlin and we have enjoyed talking about that," he said. The Germans and the Beilers are communicating in German, English and some Pennsylvania Dutch, so they have had little trouble understanding each other.

"I think this is a good thing, and the planning for it has been very good. Our visitors have been very impressed with Lancaster. They say the people here are superb, but the roads are terrible. Their first desire is



Three West Berliners make friends with a calf at the farm of Marvin and Timothy Brown, Littlestown R1. The three visitors are living in Lancaster County for a week with the N. Alan Bair family, through the Friendship Force Exchange. They are, from left: Edith Henke, Barbara Mewis, and Kristine Jackal.

to see New York since they have seen it on television."

For the Beilers' guests, the experience of living on a dairy farm is new. Beiler said, "They are very helpful, but they say they never want to farm because it is too much work. They do love being in the country."

He added at first they were afraid of the big dairy animals, but now Hans-Georg helps get them in to feed them. So far he has not tackled the milking. Beiler concluded, "We're having a good time."

J. Mowery Frey, 401 Beaver Valley Pike, Lan-

caster, said, "I've enjoyed our visitors very much. They are polite, kind and appreciative. We found their reaction to the Amish very interesting, as well as their reaction to all the farms here."

Frey said the first time his visitors saw an Amish buggy they thought driving the horse was just someone's hobby. He took them to visit Amish neighbors and they got a first-hand look at that culture.

For the Tom Williams family in Middletown, Dauphin County, this week  
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## Farm Calendar

(Continued from Page A10)

**Sunday, May 18**  
MD. Horse Breeders' Association Yearling Show, Timonium, MD.

**Monday, May 19**  
DHIA Supervisors short course; Penn State; continues through May 23.

Lancaster 4-H Sheep Club; Jim Stauffer farm; 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 20**  
Ephrata Adult Farmers; Ag Dept. Ephrata High School; 7:45 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 21**  
4-H new leader training; 7:30 p.m.; Farm and Home Center.

**Thursday, May 22**  
4-H new leader training; 1-3 p.m.; Farm and Home

Center.  
4-H County Teen Council; 7:30 p.m.; Farm and Home Center.

**Friday, May 23**  
Lancaster County Agricultural Preservation Board; 10 a.m.; County Commissioners Room, fifth floor, Court House.

York Farmers Forum; 7 p.m.; Rutter's Dairyland, Red Lion.

**Saturday, May 24**  
Richard N. Wills Spring Fair; Howard County Fair Grounds, West Friendship, MD.

Lancaster Forest Fire Crew Annual Highville County Fair; Fort Holbrook Fire Base; 1 p.m. to dusk. Continues tomorrow.

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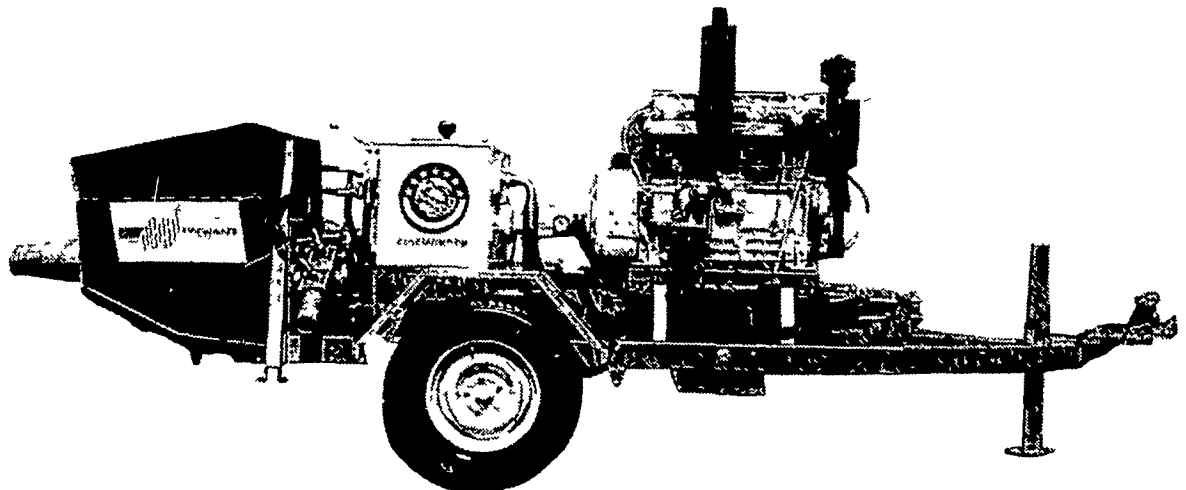
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