

Exchange students from Norway, India

IFYEs share native customs, views of America

BY SALLY BAIR
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The two young men come from countries with different cultures, different climates and different languages, but they are in Lancaster County for the same reason - to learn about the United States, its agriculture and its people.

Edvin Hauge from Norway and Jhuraigjam Indrahit Singh are visiting Pennsylvania as exchangees in the International 4-H Youth Exchange program. It is the second of two states they will visit during their six months' stay in this country.

Both men are from farming backgrounds and are knowledgeable about their farming operations at home, and both are also eager to learn about farming methods here.

Edvin visited with the George Rohrer family, Lancaster, and with the Elvin Brenneman family, Mount Joy. Indra stayed first with the John Henkel's, Strasburg, and then with the Rodney Denlinger's, Gordonville. Both will leave Lancaster County within the next

week to go to other host families: Edvin to Union County, and Indra to York County.

Edvin, 24, comes from the Land of the Midnight Sun, 120 miles north of the Arctic Circle in Norway. He casually dismisses questions about the strangeness of living at a latitude which experiences 24 hours of daylight for several months of the year, and 20-22 hours of darkness for several months. He says simply, "You get used to it. It's normal."

Edvin is quick to answer questions about temperature ranges, probably having gone over them many times with previous host families. The hottest ever recorded in Norway was 96 degrees Fahrenheit (he very nicely translated from Celsius), with minus 61 being the coldest ever recorded. However, he noted that 80 to 85 degrees would be considered very hot and 10 to 15 degrees below zero would be a normal winter temperature.

There is a lot of winter where Edvin lives, with snow falling seven to eight months of the year.



Roger Brenneman gets a lesson in near Narvik, in the Land of the Midnight Sun. geography as Edvin points out his home town

One need not wonder what the favorite winter sport is in Norway: it's skiing. "Everybody cross country skis," Edvin notes. "We also have Europe's fastest downhill slope."

Winters in Norway are somewhat milder than in other regions so far north because of winds warmed by the sea. Nearly all of Norway's harbors are free of ice year round.

Norway is the size of New Mexico, according to Edvin, with a population of 4.2 million people. That averages about 31 people per each square mile of land. Of course, the most heavily populated part of Norway is along the southern end along the coast.

Edvin lives near the town of Narvik, situated along one of the many fiords for which Norway is known. Edvin's father was not only a farmer, but also a captain of a cargo boat which sailed along the coast. His father was home on weekends, he said.

The family farm was originally a dairy farm, but they have gone out of dairying and into sheep. His twin brother farms the farm and has added heifers. The sheep are for slaughter, Edvin notes, and last year they raised just 30, down from the 60 head of the previous year. They also sell the wool.

Edvin's brother is a part time farmer, like his father before him, and like many other farmers in Norway. He works for the com-



Edvin Hauge holds a Norwegian flag and wears the hand knitted sweater which he brought with him.

munity which pays him to work for farmers who may be sick or for some reason need assistance in their farming.

There is little farmland in Norway, with most of it situated in narrow strips of land in inland valleys or along the coast. Agriculture accounts for six percent of the gross national product. But Edvin says, "A lot of people work in farming. We don't make enough food for ourselves, but we do make enough meat. We also have a lot of forestry. We make more milk than we drink and a lot of it is used in butter and cheese."

Dairying is the main farming venture in the north, and Edvin said that most cows are Norwegian reds, used for both meat and milk.

Yes, there are many reindeer to be found in Norway, but not hitched to sleighs. Edvin stated matter-of-factly, "The reindeer

are used mainly for meat." They are also cared for by the Lapps who are a different race of people who settled in Norway long ago. He quickly added that the Lapps are not different from other Norwegian people, although as recently as 30 years ago there were great differences.

Edvin said that alfalfa hay is grown near his home in Norway and some what, but it is not hot enough to grow barley, another common Norwegian agricultural product. Potatoes are other vegetables are grown. He said rain does not affect their hay making.

He explained, "When we harvest we cut the hay and blow it into the silos." Silos are airtight and trench silos are common. Hay can be cut twice.

The Hauge family uses the same barn for sheep that they used for dairy cows, but Edvin noted, "The

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Indra, a native of India, stands next to Frisky at the Rodney Denlinger farm. Milking cows by machine was a new experience for this IFYE.



Here is the happy host family with Indra. opportunity to learn about another culture. Cindy and Rodney Denlinger are enjoying the

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