

# IFYE shares experiences in Trinidad

LANCASTER — Rebecca Ruhl, Pinkerton Road, Mount Joy, is representing Lancaster County in the International 4-H Youth Exchange program this year. She is spending six months visiting the island countries of Trinidad-Tobago, and living and working with farm families there. She was written the following report of her activities thus far, from her host country.

Greetings from Trinidad and Tobago, birthplace of the PAN, or steel drum. The PAN, as it is affectionately termed, is a 45-gallon oil drum, beaten and hammered to produce a sweet sound filled with depth and richness.

So far, my stay in Trinidad has been one of many beautiful experiences for both eye and ear. I had never heard the steeldrum before coming here but in my first month I have become a lover of the PAN.

My education started on the first night of my stay as we were driving through the capital city of Port-of-Spain. After trying our first coconuts right from the tree, a sort of ritual one must go through when arriving in Trinidad, we stopped and listened as we heard a steelband practicing in one of the roadside "panyards." What a sound! I knew my ear needed more of it!

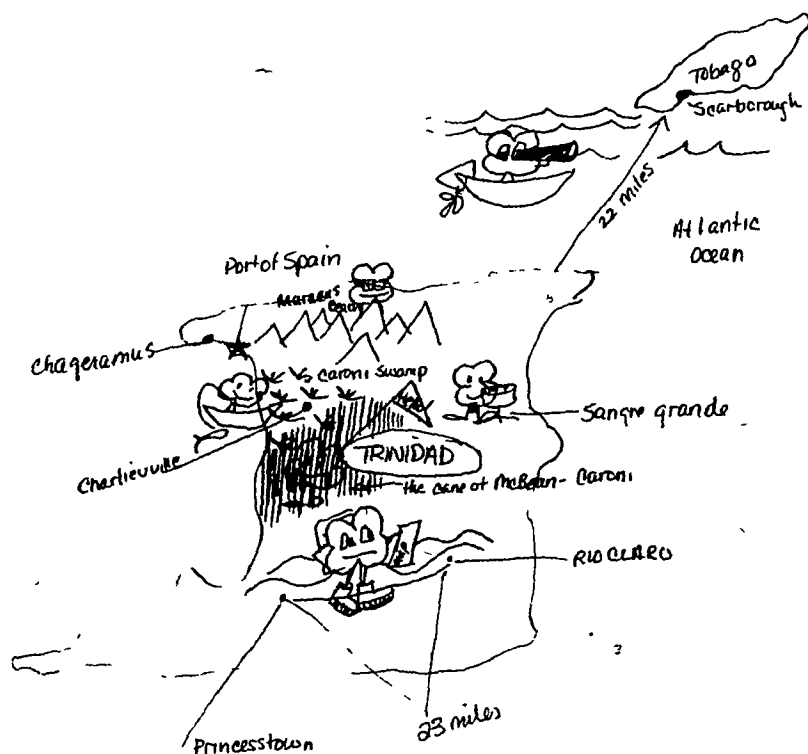
The development of the PAN is a tribute to man's ingenuity and is one of the newest and only refined musical instrument of the 20th century. It is an instrument rising out of the burden of slavery of the Trinidadian people. Its roots are in the mixed African-Indian slaved culture of Trinidad history.

The era of the development of the steeldrum begins with the emancipation of the black slaves in 1943 and a type of music known as "tambou-bamboo" which was actually the beating of different lengths of bamboo pieces. Drumming continued to bottles and cans in the 1930s and eventually to the 45-gallon steeldrum in the 1940s.

There are various legends as to who was actually the first to beat a steeldrum instead of bamboo and bottles, but the date usually given for the changeover is 1939.

Experimentation with the new instrument continued and many new bands were formed around Port-of-Spain to make music for the annual "Carnival" celebration in February.

With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, carnival was banned for security reasons and the drummer



Here, Becky secured the help of the 4-H mascot Cris Clover to help her draw a map of Trinidad and Tobago. Apparently Becky found lots to do in Trinidad as shown by her boating, hiking, sightseeing, swimming, and camping Clovers.

set out of experiment on his own with the pan. This created a huge pent-up reservoir of musical energy. When victory finally came on May 6, 1945, a huge music-filled march was led through Port-of-Spain with biscuit tins, pans and even garbage cans. Through the years, the steeldrum has been refined enough to be able to capture the best in classical music as well as calypso.

At my home in Sangre Grande I listened to the sound of the PAN in a civic center where the members of the Sangre Grande Cordettes had been practicing for an upcoming festival. I was able to meet the talented arranger-conductor of the band and he has become a good friend.

I gradually became totally engrossed in the music and made many a trip to the "panyard" to hear the Cordettes practice. The "panyard" is a unique place in itself. The outdoor practice hall of a steelband doubles as a basketball court, a place to pitch marbles and a center for sharing the news of the town.

Most member of the band work in other jobs during the day and play pan at night. Practice usually beings at 8 p.m. and sometimes runs late into the night. Being an

IFYE has enabled me to see both sides of the live of these musicians, their homelife and their "pan life."

The Sangre Grande band has 35 members, all male, ranging in age from 15-60. None have formal music training and very few can read music. Yet from their drums come the perfectly orchestrated pieces of Rossini and Dvorak. They also play their own Trinidad-based calypso.

From the crowds that gather to watch, and from the faces of the players themselves, it's very easy to see how much these Trinidadians love their music.

I attended a festival with the Cordettes and got an inside view. After each pan received an intense tuning, we loaded the drums and were on our way. In performance the band members' faces, hands and whole bodies come alive as they communicate to their audience.

So far the music of the Cordettes is just one of the beautiful experiences of my stay in Trinidad.

There are, no doubt, many more to come!

Look for another report from Becky in a future issue of Lancaster Farming.

## Farmers to receive deficiency payments after Dec. 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has announced a payment schedule under which eligible farmers will receive deficiency payments on 1982 crops and advance deficiency and diversion payments on 1983 crops.

Block said as soon as possible after Dec. 1, eligible wheat and barley producers will receive all their deficiency payments due under the 1982-crop programs, and eligible corn, upland cotton, grain sorghum and rice farmers will receive 70 percent of the 1982-crop deficiency payments due them.

The remainder of the 1982-crop

deficiency payments will be paid in early February to cotton and rice producers, while the final corn and grain sorghum payments will be made after April 1, Block said.

Producers of wheat and feed grains may request 50 percent of the projected 1983 deficiency payments and 50 percent of the 1983 diversion payments at the time they sign up, Block said. Sign up will be held Oct. 1, 1982 through March 31, 1983.

The deficiency payments rate equals the difference between the target price and the higher of the national average loan rate or the five-month weighted average

market price received by farmers.

Block said advance diversion payment for wheat will be \$1.35 per bushel times the farm yield times five percent of the farm base.

The advance deficiency payment will be 32.5 cents per bushel times the farm yield times the acres intended to be planted.

Advance payments also will be offered to farmers when they sign up in the 1983 feed grain, cotton and rice programs.

Diversion payments are compensation for land taken out of production in addition to any acreage reduction requirement.

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