New Zealand Visitor Has a Lot to Say About the USA

NEWARK, Del. — When Dick and Barbara Klair, Hockessin, let Sandra Hill operate their car in a parking lot, the 20-year-old promptly started driving on the wrong side of the road. But the momentary lapse was excusable, considering Sandra is a visitor from New Zealand, where cars are always driven on the left, summer vacations are in December, and water swirls down the bathtub drain counterclockwise instead of clockwise.

Sandra arrived in Delaware on August 10 and has been staying with a succession of 4-H families like the Klairs through the International Farm Youth Exchange. She is here to explain the ways of her country while learning more about ours. Before coming to Delaware she visited California and Kansas.

The practice of driving on the favorite summer pastimes. left, Sandra says, owes to New Zealand's British heritage. The differences in the seasons and in the direction of the earth's gravitational pull are due to the fact that New Zealand is south of the Equator, part of the "land down under.'

The cattle and sheep farm where she lives with her parents in northern New Zealand is about as far below the Equator as Georgia is above it. Average temperatures are about the same, hovering around 45 degrees F in winter, and 80 to 85 in summer. The Delaware summer was uncomfortably hot for Sandra, but she discovered a great way to cool off - ice cream. New Zealand has it, but not in so many flavors. Deciding between blueberry cheesecake and rocky

She has also been comparing notes with kids in the families with

whom she has been staying, finding out the differences and similarities between her own youth organization, the New Zealand Young Farmers, and 4-H.

Although the two organizations are similar in their aims and methods, one big difference is the

age requirement. At 20, Sandra is prepared a New Zealand lamb already too old to be a member of 4-H, which serves nine- to 19-yearolds. New Zealand Young Farmers range in age from 14 to 30 But both groups use competitions as incentives for personal improvement in fields such as cooking, sewing, and stock judging.

Sandra is skilled in all these fields, as her hosts have found. She

dinner for her first Delaware hosts, the Pritchetts, Felton. And at the Klair's she's getting a chance to sew and work with sheep and cattle.

Barbara Klair sometimes appreciates an extra hand in her homebased custom slipcover and drapery business. Daughter

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New Zealand visitor Sandra Hill tries out a vintage tractor belonging to one of her Delaware 4-H host families, the Klairs of Hockessin. Pictured with Sandra are, left to right, Martha, Debbie, Dick and Barbara Klair.







