Bolivian child

(Continued from Page B13)

with the formal adoption in the United States.

A lot of red tape was involved in obtaining Ryan's visa, but it finally came through just five days before the Hesses were scheduled to fly out of Bolivia.

"It was very close," Marlene said.

Marlene's oldest sister and her husband had traveled to Bolivia with the Hesses and adopted a little girl who is now six.

They'll have something in common," Marlene said. Even

now, she said, she can see a special bond between them.

Marlene said they hope to take Ryan back to Bolivia when he is old enough to remember the trip.

"I think that's really important with a child of another culture,' she said. "That has been part of his past and culture and we don't want to take that away from him"

Marlene said she believes that she and her husband have an edge over other adoptive parents who did not spend an extended period of time living in their adopted child's culture. During their stay in

C.

Bolivia the Hesses collected pictures, books and memories that they plan to share with Ryan when he gets older.

"We can help relive that for Ryan," Marlene said.

They also have a picture of Ryan's birth mother and of his grandmother that they will give to him when he is older.

"We'll answer Ryan's questions," Marlene said. "The more honest you can be with your child, the better.'

Marlene said that when they began talking about adopting

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Ryan, they were told that special problems could confront parents of adoptive children from different cultures. Sometimes the adopted child will want to return to his birth culture, presenting problems for the adoptive parents.

But the Hesses didn't let the threat of problems stop them.

We were very optimistic about adoption" Marlene said.

Children, especially adopted children, need parents who have a source of strength within them,' Marlene said. For her and Andy, that source of inner strength comes from faith in God.

"As Christians we have resources to deal with the problems that might come up later."

Marlene said a lot of people have asked her if she loves Ryan as much as she would her own child, but this question baffles her.

"He became a part of us and we loved him initially," she explained. "He definately has brought a new aspect to our lives."

Ryan has a loving outgoing personality that attracts people, Marlene said.

"It's interesting to see how people reach out to him and really love him," she said. The Hesses live on a farm in Mt.

Joy where Andy farms part-time with his father while maintaining a fulltime carpentry job during the winter months. They farm 170 acres, producing corn, soybeans, alfalfa and wheat and raise steers.

4-H clothing projects teach

consumer awareness

Consumer awareness, in addition to sewing skills, is the goal of 4-H's clothing projects, says Pamela Cutright, Penn State Extension clothing and textiles specialist.

Since most people do not sew the majority of their clothes, learning to buy and care for clothes has become very important, she says. While each lesson includes sewing skills, it also teaches grooming, consumer awareness and selfımage.

The projects, all of which have been recently revised, are divided into 10 levels with the first six mixing sewing and consumer lessons. The last four allow the participant to choose either area or both.

Participants begin at their own ability level and can take the lessons consecutively, take more

than one project at a time or skip lessons that may be too easy for them.

The projects have been introduced two at a time over the past five years. In each project, participants construct items they will use.

In addition to the sewing projects, participants learn other useful skills such as hair care and updating clothing for reuse.

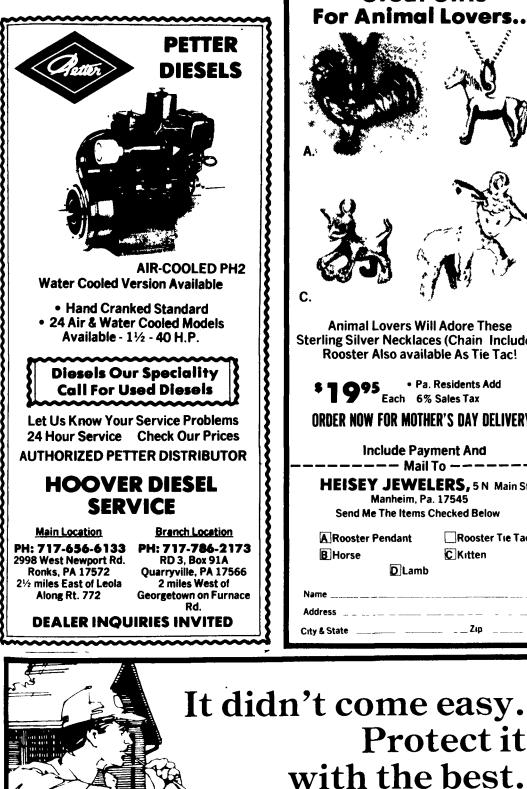
Since the revised program has begun, enrollment in 4-H clothing projects has increased 12 percent and the number of boys participating has increased 107 percent. Cutright says.

For information on how you can become a volunteer 4-H Clothing leader or how to enroll your child in 4-H, call Helaine Brown, 4-H Agent at 277-0574.



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