

Shared Holiday

(Continued from Page B2)

positive thing to have happened and I'm glad to have done it. I think he enjoyed it too."

The program is organized so that contact can be maintained with the guests if the host family wishes it. Pat says it is their hope that Jeff will come back for another visit.

According to information supplied by Linda Deal, approximately 35 percent of all new host families follow up with the same child in subsequent summers, and an average of 60 percent of host families repeat year after year. New host families are asked to have the children for just one week, and in subsequent years they can have them for two week periods.

Dennis and Dena Hess, Lititz R4, are hosting for the second year. Living on 70 acres near Clay, Dean says they decided to become part of the program because "We wanted to give a city child time in the country to play, ride bicycle and be around animals. We didn't do anything special last year. We just did our everyday chores."

They hosted David Emerick, 8, of Lancaster city. The Hesses have four children of their own, Dana, 3; Kevin, 5; Cory, 6; and Ryan, 8. Used to sharing with one another, they welcomed David. Alta said, "My children don't get many kids to play with."

Although David took little interest in the farm animals last year, this year he played with the two baby goats and the dog as soon as he arrived. "He knows his way

around, and is a little more relaxed," Alta said.

The Hesses have a creek on their property, so David had a chance to fish and look for crayfish, something he asked to do as soon as he arrived this year. Dena said, "He wants to do everything in one day."

He enjoyed riding bicycle and last year even helped the family move irrigation pipe. A real treat was taking a ride on a three-wheeled all-terrain vehicle owned by Dena's brother.

One big chance required of David is in his sleeping habits. Dean explained, "We go to bed early and get up early. He must adjust to that. Last year he slept until 11 the first morning he was here."

Last year he had the treat of eating his first corn on the cob with the Hess family, and Dena said he was not accustomed to the fresh vegetables they had. "With a little coaxing he ate them," she recalls.

Dena said there is value in the program for her own children as well. "They see that others have no yard and no space. That makes an impression on them. They get to see another type of lifestyle." Last year the Hess family had David there for a total of three weeks at various times, so the relationship continues throughout the year.

Children participating in the program come from referrals from the Community Action Program, Child and Youth Agency, Department of Public Assistance and the School District



Tacky, the family dog, gets some loving attention from Medina Long, Ruthie Sykes, Peter Diaz and Bobby Sykes. The children relax outside the tent where they took turns spending the night.

of Lancaster. They are matched according to ages of the children of the hosting families as well as other considerations.

Farm families, or others, wishing to become a host can

contact Linda Deal at the Lancaster County Council of Churches, 447 East King Street, Lancaster, 17602. Names will be put on a waiting list to get information about next year's program.

Providing a vacation through the Shared Holiday program can be a sharing, caring and learning experience for your family, while providing a much-needed change of environment for another child

Extension to offer course for apprentice arborists

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — This fall, for the third consecutive year, the Cooperative Extension Service of Cook College, Rutgers University, will offer the basic training course, ARBORICULTURE I, Tree Climbing and Pruning for Apprentice Arborists. The ten-day session will be held on weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. from October 15 through 26, at the Warren Brook Golf Course, Warren, New Jersey.

Designed for persons at an entry level in the field of arboriculture, subjects to be taught include selecting and using climbing equipment, rope handling and knot tying, safe climbing practices, and tree pruning. Field instruction will involve students in climbing small and large trees to gain experience

and confidence. Climbing instructors are professionals with many years of experience as practicing arborists and supervisors.

Registration will be in advance by mail, with enrollment limited to 30 qualified persons on a first come, first serve basis. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, provide their own accident and health insurance coverage, and be in satisfactory health certified by a physician. Brochures with course information on requirements and tuition, and a registration form, will be available in mid July.

To obtain a brochure, contact Elaine Barbour, county agricultural agent, 4 Gauntt Place, Flemington, New Jersey 08822, (201) 788-1338.

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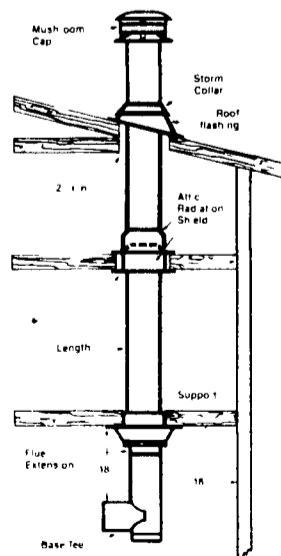


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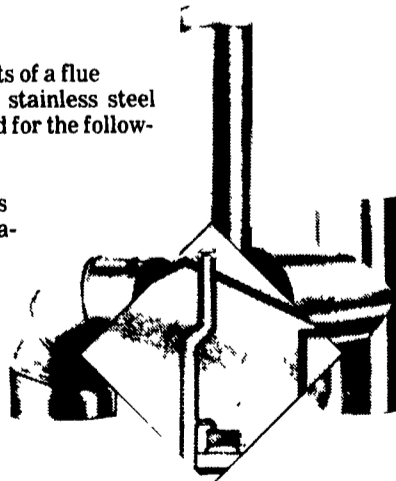
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