

Panama Farm

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with bottled gas, the ice box and chest of drawers, the double-duty sofa bed. Jake built a low portable table with removable short legs. Curtains were hung at the win-

dows and interior locks installed. Two spare tires were padlocked to the outside rear end. Marlene's mother had the insight to purchase a roll of screening for the windows. The automotive mechanic

had been thorough in overhauling the vehicle.

In the yard, the kids raced around as final goodbyes were exchanged.

"When are we going to Panama?" they yelled. The exact hour wasn't known. There were too many final details to reckon with.

Jake waited for a crucial piece of equipment to arrive from the shipper. It, too, would travel by bus. Sure enough, when it came, hours before departure, there was a glitch. If the trip were a jaunt into Pittsburgh to watch the Pirates play baseball, the problem would not be a big deal. Finally, the mis-shipment was worked out.

Jake said their new housing will be a step down. Marlene has all the vials of serum for their final inoculations to complete the immunizations begun here in the states against various diseases. She will administer them to the family members at the appropriate intervals according to the instructions of her home physician.

Education for the children will be another challenge. Marlene is optimistic and joyful about being a full-time mother once more. She says she will teach them English lessons and learn Spanish with them.

Boquete, Panama, where they will live has an enviable, near-perfect, climate year round. The 75-degree daytime temperature merely dips to 65 degrees at night. On the west shore of the curving

slice of the country is the Pacific Ocean, while to the east is the Caribbean Sea. Settled into their new home, the Tices will be almost midway between the two bodies of water.

Despite the extra weight and expense, Marlene refused to leave anything behind that could be given to the Panamanian children. So she took along clothes they didn't need and toys they didn't want, to be shared with the disadvantaged youngsters there.

Their household belongings and milking equipment, leaving Baltimore Harbor by ship, were sent down the Panama Canal. Tice had to be at the dock on September 2 to claim the 150 cartons.

Though self-supporting, the Tices intend to be active as missionaries by getting involved with the Mennonite-Brethren Church team there. They will help to plant churches and work with the native Choco' Indians.

After calling home every other day or so while en route with the news advisory regarding their progress, the Tices arrived safely at their destination by the end of August.



Jake casts a disappointed look over the final shipment of equipment he wants to haul along to Panama as he notes a glitch. "It's not all here," he says.

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