

IFYE Experience Molds Itle's Goals

(Continued from Page B14)

Schools are in session six days weekly, with Sunday free. Classes are held full-time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and half-days the other three. Tom's explanations of America's five-day school week generated envy among the students he met.

Not long after his arrival, Tom was invited to attend a "ball" with some of his hosts.

"I dressed up in a suit and tie, figuring it would be a formal gathering. It turned out to be a big party. They hold them in the town squares. American music is very popular. But they also do the traditional folk dances. Every village has a 'fest' each year, with two or three held somewhere every summer weekend. It's on two nights, one for the kids and one for adults," Tom relates.

Attending a hunt was part of his stay with an urban family host.

"They hunt deer, boar, rabbits, foxes, all at the same time," recalls Tom. "It's a social activity, with a leader in charge, and starts at a cafe with morning coffee and pastries. Then the group returns at lunch for a pig roast.

"I wasn't scared until I saw the boar, afterward," he laughs. "Their deer are smaller than ours; but the rabbits are huge."

The father of that host family was an ex-Tour de France bicycle racer who took Tom out biking one day.

"I did manage to keep up with him," he adds with a grin of accomplishment.



While staying with the IFYE host family who cultivated vineyards, Tom Itle helped with harvesting the white grapes for the bottle of wine they gifted him with for a memento.

The World War II era has become much more real to Tom, having seen the numerous memorials to the allies, talked with people about their memories and listened to recollections of resistance fighters and concentration camps.

"It was the first time the war really 'sank in' for me," he admits.

Tom says that there was never a time that he felt out of place or uncomfortable and that the people he met were very warm and

friendly.

"They want to be happy, have a better life for their children, and enjoy living, just like us," he adds. "I was amazed at how emotionally similar we all are."

Now employed as a teller at the Cumberland County National Bank's Cedar Cliff Mall branch, Tom plans to return for his graduate degree and work toward a career in international banking. He also plans to return to Luxembourg to visit his many friends

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



It is so very nice to be able to stay home and pull weeds. I did not think that I would ever say that, but after one month of emptying a house in preparation for an auction, that's the way I feel.

The grass grew up through my four iris beds. The one was completely dug up last fall and the bulbs separated. Thus, that bed only has a few buds. My daughter gave me a variety of iris several years ago and they encompass a rainbow of colors and are big and beautiful.

The forsythia bush has been pruned, mostly to give me a better view of my big convex mirror. My husband bought the mirror and mounted it on posts so that I can see the driveway. As my kitchen is in the back of the house, I never know what cars or trucks come to the barn. And, I am a nosey person and like to know what is going on

around the place.

This year my columbines are finally blooming. Last year the rototiller wheels ran over them. There are several shades of these graceful flowers with their long spurs.

My black China lilies were spectacular this year. They always bloom in the basement in early March and have a deep maroon blossom with a yellow throat. Then, they die down only to come up in the garden as a plant resembling a palm tree with a mottled stem — quite spectacular.

My husband has put a lot of time and money into staking two 100-foot rows of black and red raspberries. If they bear the way that he expects, we will have some to sell. But, dry weather is their enemy and so we shall have to wait and see.

there as soon as it is financially possible.

"The kids have been really receptive," he says of the slide program he is sharing with 4-H, Farm Women, church and community groups. "They want to really know what it was all about, not just the fun things. I tell it as a story - and relive it every time I

see those slides."

Tom and his family hope to be instrumental in helping the county 4-H to start a fund to help others take part in the IFYE program. He welcomes the opportunity to share his slides and IFYE experiences with area organizations and may be contacted at 703 Wyndamere Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339.

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