

Kid's KOrner

Day Campers Learn About The Community

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)

— A sun-splashed day greeted 312 children who attended the 4-H Summer Day Camp recently.

Lancaster County Park was the site where the day campers participated in fun-filled activities under the theme "Getting to Know Your Community."

Firemen and ambulance workers taught the children how to deal with disasters. A fire trailer was parked on the grounds and groups of students took turns entering the trailer and settling in the nooks and crannies of the small rooms. Then smoke was piped into the trailer and fire alarms shrilled. The children needed to crawl and feel their way to safety.

Most of the campers enjoyed crawling through the maze and feeling for the door where they could escape in safety. They knew this was not a real fire, but an activity to teach them how to escape from a real fire.

Eight-year-old Kevin Rice of Elizabethtown said that escaping from a fire was old stuff for him. He said he had to escape from two fires in real life. He eagerly told his fellow campers how he dialed 911 and that he could not awaken his dad until the fire sirens sounded.

"I think it is a good thing to have this fire trailer," he said. "So we



Five-year-old Erica cools off by eating ice cream.

learn how to escape from fires."

Ambulance workers explained how the ambulance helps people and that it is nothing to be afraid of even though the siren sounds scary.

On the other side of the field 11-year-old Jessica Schmidt and her mother, Laurie, told the campers all about raising sheep.

"Look, each of you are wearing a name tag today," Laurie told the campers. The sheep have their ears pierced and wear ear tags so people can identify them."

She told how the lamb Pepper needed to be bottle fed five times a

day because the mother ewe could not take care of him.

Some of the campers had never had the opportunity to pet a sheep before. Seven-year-old Jonathan Jaynes loved to pet the woolly coats. He said, "The big sheep feels like a rug, and the little one feels like a carpet."

In another area of the park, cam-

pers watched as Penn Laurel Girl Scout Council presented a puppet show on learning disabilities.

"I like the puppet show best because it shows how each person is special," said one of the campers.

"The neat thing about 4-H Day Camp," said Zoann Parker, 4-H extension agent, is the diversity of youth organizations that partici-

pate. There is cooperation and acceptance with everyone. Four-H is for everyone."

Of the games and activities planned, Parker said, "It's really an educational experience, although the kids aren't aware of it, the games are really teaching the children the importance of cooperation."



As Laurie Schmidt, right, explains the care that sheep require, a 4-H'er caps the Dorset's head with a baseball cap.



Day campers peer through the window to see how smoke rises about two to three feet above the ground. The Lancaster County Fireman's Association set up the fire trailer to teach kids fire safety.



This day camp activity teaches children the importance of working together.



The outdoor pavilion is flavored with the aroma of grilled hot dogs and friendship.

