

Kid's KOrner

City Kids Vacation On The Farm

GAY BROWNLEE

Somerset Co. Correspondent
MEYERSDALE (Somerset Co.) — Frankie Hamer, 13, from Staten Island, New York City, and Pedro Alicea, 8, from Manhattan, New York City, were absolute strangers until early July.

Now they are almost like brothers. That's because through the Fresh Air Fund, they spent two weeks of summer vacation together at the farm of Elmer and Sara Yoder.

For Pedro, it was his first time ever in the country. He had never seen a farm or farm animals.

But for Frankie, it was his third vacation with the Yoders, even though their two daughters are adults with very young children of their own.

Mrs. Yoder says the Frankie and Pedro enjoyed the farm so

much that they were never bored. She and Mr. Yoder didn't have to plan any special entertainment, she said.

Just like farm kids, Frankie and Pedro ran around in their bare feet, except when they helped with chores at milking time.

"They wear shoes in the barn because it's kind of dirty there," said Mrs. Yoder.

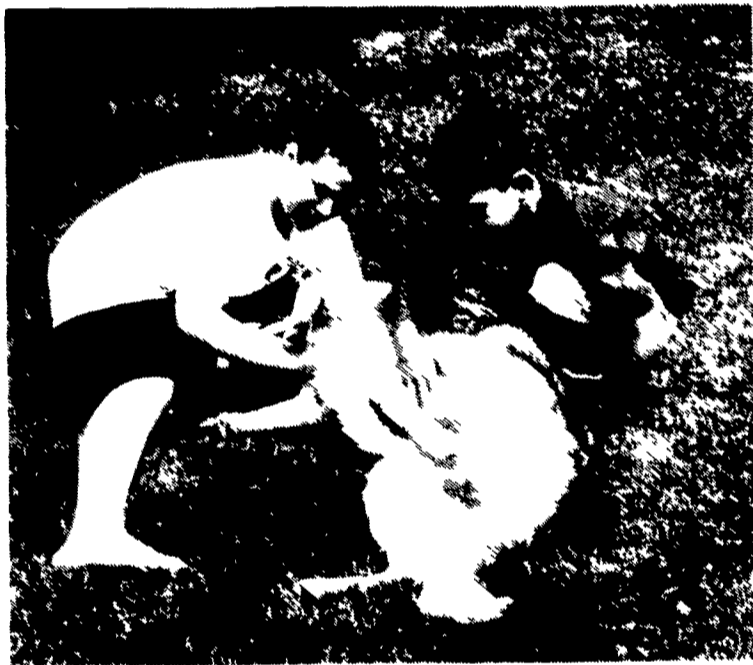
"My favorite thing is to be with Pirate," said Frankie. "I wish I could take him back with me."

Pirate is the big, burly farm dog that was the favorite playmate of both city boys for romping in the big back yard.

Pedro begged to take the cat home when he left on Tuesday, July 19. That was the day all the Fresh Air Fund kids in the area were boarding two buses at the Maple Glen Mennonite Church in



A big farm tractor is a fascinating machine especially if you've never seen one in your whole life, like Pedro Alicea, 8, from New York City. He's in the cab at the steering wheel. Standing are Elmer Yoder, left and Frankie Hamer, aged 13, also from New York City. The boys are having a farm vacation through the Fresh Air Fund.



Pirate, the farm dog is a favorite with Frankie Hamer, 13 and Pedro Alicea, 8, who are playing with him on the grass. The boys are at the Elmer and Sara Yoder farm, Meyersdale, Somerset County. They live in New York City but came on vacation through Fresh Air Fund.

Grantsville, Md., for a long ride home.

Then Frankie reminded Pedro that since the cat was a farm cat, it might not like living in the city.

The boys also liked milking the coes. It was their next favorite thing to playing with Pirate, they said. The Yoders milk 70 Guernsey cows and have 60 heifers.

Frankie made everybody laugh when he teased the Yoders. "The reason they put up the Fresh Air Fund is to have help on the farm," he said, mischievously.

Pedro was unable to sit still. When Elmer let him sit in the big, big cab of the orange tractor, Pedro looked like the king driver in charge of the parked machine.

He has three sisters and two brothers. One sister is Pedro's twin. She was with a different Fresh Air Fund family while he was with the Yoders.

Mrs. Yoder said that Frankie's mother has visited the farm twice. Mrs. Hamer wanted to meet the folks who took care of her kids (Frankie's sisters used to come) for two weeks. She wanted to see the farm where they lived.

An adorable Guernsey calf was born during the boys' vacation at the Yoders. When it came time to take a picture of the boys and the calf, it wanted to frolic instead of standing still.

Mr. and Mrs. Yoder have hosted Fresh Air Fund kids for 12 years. Mrs. Yoder is on the committee that matches the Fresh Air kids with host families. The head person is named Alice Orendorf.

Mrs. Orendorf said sometimes a family will take Fresh Air Fund kids only one year. Then they quit. Mrs. Orendorf said she wishes many more families would host

the children from New York City. She said it's very important to get the children out of the city. The parents want their children to have the experience, she said.

If you know someone who would host a child in 1995 they can call this telephone number: 1-800-367-0003. This number will connect them to the Fresh Air Fund in New York City. The people there will suggest which Fresh Air Fund "Friendly Town" coordinator to contact.

The Fresh Air Fund is quite old, more than 100 years. It provides vacations with volunteer families in 13 states from Virginia and north to Canada.

If you like making new friends, maybe the Fresh Air Fund can help you make a great new friend in New York City.

Oh, by the way, you don't have to live on a farm to be a Fresh Air Fund host family. They live in smaller cities and towns as well as in the country.



This week-old Guernsey calf won't hold still for the camera. Trying to steady him are Ganene Yoder, Frankie Hamer, 13, Sara Yoder, and Pedro Alicea in front of Sara. Frankie and Pedro are Fresh Air kids on a vacation at Elmer and Sara Yoder's farm near Meyersdale, Somerset County.

Colorful Ideas

(NAPS) — If your youngsters are like most, they can, under proper conditions, distinguish ten million different colors.

Now many children are using their acute color sense to enter a coloring contest youngsters of all ages can really get their teeth into: The eighth annual Crayola/Nabisco National Coloring Event.

The 100 grand prize winners will each get a Camp Cookie trunk packed with Crayola and Nabisco products. Crayola crayons are

among the world's most popular, being clearly marked, sturdy and color-true. The company's markers don't bleed through paper, squeak or smell. Every child who enters receives a Camp Cookie iron-on suitable for T-shirts.

The entry form can be found on the back panel of boxes of Bugs Bunny and Teddy Grahams cookies. These carry scenes from Camp Cookie for the child to color and send in to the address on the box.
