

Michigan 4-H'ers Visit Mifflin Countians

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lightly joke about their differences, especially in language.

"We say soda, you say pop!" exclaims Jessi. The visiting group has tried central Pennsylvania's version of mountain pies, or, in their language, tonka toasts or hobo pies. Then they debate who has the accent, those from Michigan or those from Pennsylvania. (Each denies talking with an accent). Then they launch into a comparison of 4-H clubs and fairs.

"Your fair is different, not as many projects," Kelly says, a 4-H'er active in the Gradiot County Horse Club. "We have more than 100 horses at the fair. We have three horse barns." Another youth adds that there must be more than 94 kids in the swine club. He estimates their county fair last year, which pools from a much larger agricultural area, had more than 900 projects and 500 kids of all ages participating in 26 clubs with names like Wet and Wild, Circle E, and the BBB.

"We're one of the biggest county's in Michigan," says one youth. "We even have the ship ride!" The Gradiot County fair is strictly a 4-H and FFA fair, with no open

shows. Each family pays \$5 to join 4-H, regardless of the number of children participating or projects entered. more than 110 families camp at the fairgrounds which offers shower facilities. During the last two days of their fair, the steers, pigs, and sheep are auctioned off and a dance is held afterwards.

The Mifflin County Junior Leaders started planning for the exchange two years ago. Under the leadership of Suzanne Fisher and Elizabeth Coyle, the group decided to look westward. Mifflin County Youth Extension Director Jim Ladlee helped in the search, and discovered that Michigan's plans for an exchange fit Mifflin

County's.

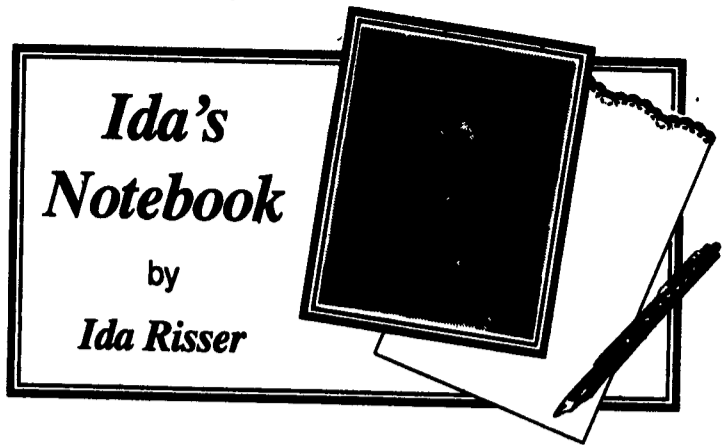
At Greenwood State Park, Amy conducts a Junior Leaders meeting to discuss the upcoming fair and fund-raisers for their trip to Michigan next year. They discuss ways to finance the trip - T-shirt sale, a variety show, a ham sandwich sale, a 50/50 raffle. How about a "lock-in," one Michigan youth suggests, and then goes on to explain as everyone discusses the possibility at the same time.

As youth from both groups clamor to be heard, this cultural exchange experience is enriched by an exchange of another sort - the ever so important exchange of ideas.

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Despite the very dry weather that we have had for the last month, I've found plenty to can and freeze. My husband put in four plantings of sweet corn and he picked several baskets last week.

In addition to that we bought several bushel of peaches and some plums and pears. It certainly kept me busy. Now I still have lima beans and tomatoes to freeze and can. Even the apple tree in our front yard added to all of the work as I made a lot of applesauce.

Recently, I have visited several elderly relatives. These ladies are in their nineties. One lives alone in a large farmhouse while the other is at a retirement community. They have aged gracefully and I can only hope that I'll be able to do the same. One chose to remain where

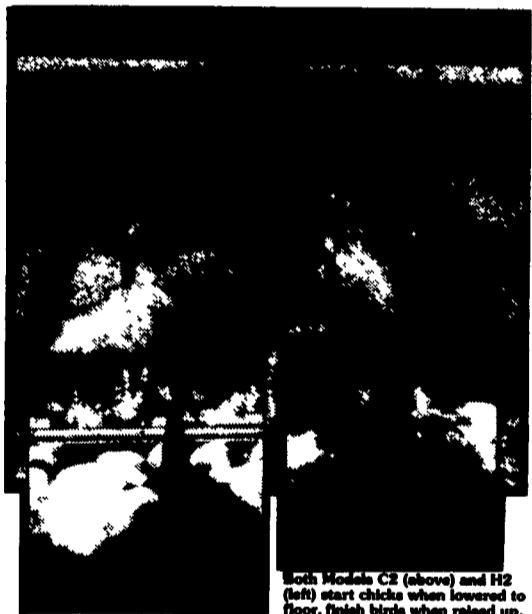
she had spent her life while the other moved. It is a momentous decision for all couples. These ladies have been widows for many years and as the years go by they have fewer and fewer friends who are able to visit them.

It is interesting to hear them tell of their earlier experiences. When one of them canned grape juice, the bottles exploded. I've just canned some juice myself and know it can leave purple splashes all over the counters. The other told of making sauerkraut which is something that I haven't done for years — maybe, because my husband does not like it. He does not like cooked cabbage either and so it doesn't appear on our table very often. One learns to cook things that will be appreciated.

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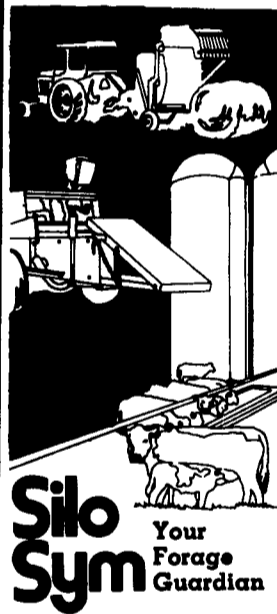
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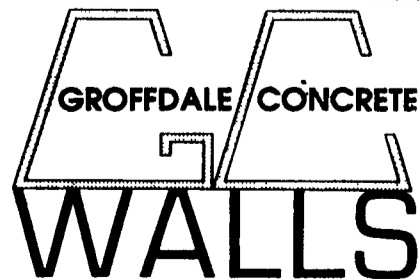
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