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Honored at the Legion banquet were, standing in front, Debbie Choi on the left and Stacy Miller on the right. IN back are, left to right, Bill Dommel, Mitch Drace, and Eric Steinhart. Debbie is from Lancaster, Eric from Milton Grove, and Bill, Mitch, and Stacy from Mount Joy.

“That government is best which governs least”

said Thomas Jefferson, and that means the mock government sponsored by the American Legion was excellent

Last Thursday the Mount Joy American Legion held a banquet for their baseball team and some other young people who attended conferences across the state.

Trophies were awarded the baseball players. Most Valuable Player trophy went to Randy Velez, as did the batting award. Melvin Hay was named the Most Improved Player, and Pete Splain was declared to be the Best Defensive Player.

The other young people honored that night were those who had attended model governments or taken police training for the previous week. Bill Dommel and Mitch Drace had gone, courtesy of the Legion, to Hershey Police Academy, chalking up 49 hours of training (which will be valid if they actually become State Cops in the future).

“You know that driveway there, the one that’s about a mile long?” asked Mitch Drace. “Well, we had to run all the way up that way every morning at 6:30.” Besides calisthenics, the two fellows also studied police work while sitting at desks. About 120 young men from all over the state shared their experience.

Stacy Miller of Mount Joy and Debbie Choi of Lancaster both spent their week at “Keystone Girls’ State,” an exercise in mock government held at Shippensburg State College. Debbie was elected the most outstanding citizen of the 250 girls who attended.



The Legion baseball team. In the front row are, left to right, manager Doug Avers, Randy Velez, Dean Zimmerman, and business manager Jim Buehler. In the back are Brian Long, George Root, Pete Splain, Teet Gohn, and Tom Weber.

“First we had to set up a local government, then a county (including a court system), and finally a state government,” said Stacy Miller. The two girls agreed that it was a big job to accomplish in only one week. Stacy also recounted receiving a delegate from the Keystone Boys’ State—who had a shaved head. She doesn’t know why he had shaved it.

The Keystone Boys’ State was where Eric Steinhart confronted the political system as the clerk of the House of Representatives. “You couldn’t get anything

done...they’d just argue and argue and argue, about the smallest details,” Eric noted. The Boys’ State also experienced the formation of a new party, the “Independents,” who refused to be part of either of the two official parties (the “Nationalists” and the “Federalists”). Despite the

political turmoil, the Boys’ State managed to hammer out two bills, which were sent to the real governor (Shapp) as suggestions for actual laws.

“I learned a lot about how our government works, and about how any government works,” noted Eric.

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