

Joe and Grace Shaeffer having the time of their life

[continued from front page]

ment in 1972 that Joe and Grace have done any travelling to speak of. For one thing, Joe vowed that he would never leave terra firma in airplane. He didn't seem interested in any kind of travel.

But Grace got the wanderlust. She told Joe, "If we don't do any travelling soon I know what is going to happen. You'll wait until I'm dead, and then take some young thing on a cruise—and if you do, I'll haunt you."

That threat of Grace's seemed to have some effect on Joe, for whom "Walking Main Street of Old Mount Joy" (the title of one his many available lectures) was his idea of travelling.

Grace and he took a cruise in a boat, not a plane, through the Caribbean in 1970. Joe as well as Grace enjoyed that cruise so much that they repeated it next year, making sure that they got the same boat and the same state room as on their first trip.

Joe still insisted he would never get on a plane, but when some Mount Joy Rotarians started talking about attending the international meeting of Rotary in Switzerland, Grace and Joe attended a meeting where plans were being made for the trip, and when asked whether they were going along, Grace replied, "Sure we're going."

On that trip they saw not only Switzerland but other European countries. They took a train from London to Paris, which crossed the English Channel on a ferry.

Wherever they went Joe took colored slide pictures. Now he had material for even more lectures, with illustrations.

This past year the Shaeffers have visited Nova Scotia, taking the Cabot Trail, New Orleans, including a trip up the Mississippi on the "Delta Queen," and Japan, with side jaunts to Singapore and Hong Kong.

The formal purpose of the trip to Japan was to attend the international Rotary meeting in Tokyo with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sloan of Mount Joy and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Eshelman of Lancaster.

In Japan they spent a "delightful" evening dining in a Tokyo restaurant with members of the Mount Joy Rotary Club's "matched" club from Osaka, Japan.

Joe says, "We only did one thing wrong in Japan." While visiting a Buddhist temple they were required to take off their shoes while walking across the sacred, and creaking, floors. Their walk completed, Grace started to put on her shoes, but apparently too soon, because a "holy man" began waving his arms and screeching in Japanese at her.

Of all the countries that the Shaeffers have visited, they have found Iceland the most unusual.

Grace says, "You would think you are on the moon." For miles and miles the land is bare, like the moon. The Icelanders say they have no dogs, because they have no trees.

Unexpectedly, though, the Shaeffers would suddenly see a church standing in the middle of nowhere, miles from any house. They ate excellent food in a restaurant which was likewise isolated.

Hot springs abound in Iceland. There is no energy crisis there. Grace tells about a swimming pool where the lifeguard was all bundled up in the frigid air at the edge of the pool as he watched swimmers in the 95-degree water in the pool.

The weather was strange in Iceland too, snow followed by sunshine and then a heavy wall of rain. Because of the rapid alternation of rain and sunshine, the Shaeffers saw some of the most beautiful rainbows of their lives.

So—with the Shaeffers it's not: "What will we do?" but "What will we do next?"

(See Joe's story about Cedar Hill Seminary, an exclusive girls' school located in Mount Joy in the 1800's—on the back page of this newspaper.)

Preservation Pointers

[Ed. note: printed below is the first of a series of articles contributed by the Marietta Restoration Associates.]

Undoubtedly, one of the most unique characteristics of this immediate area is the large number of fine old unaltered buildings still in good shape. With the restoration movement catching fire nationwide, it's becoming harder to find fine old houses for sale. We are indeed fortunate to have large quantities of what people in other places are clamoring for.

If you either own or plan to own an old house, you may find this column of both practical and aesthetic interest. Written as a public service by the Marietta Restoration Associates, it will appear on a regular basis in this newspaper and cover a variety of topics pertinent to "old house living."

Why do people, in increasing numbers, endure the problems of living in old houses? Why has the restoration movement caught fire not only in Lancaster County, but across the nation? Why can't you pick up a local paper these days without seeing some feature on a restored country farm house or a news article on "Old Town Lancaster"?

Because the news reflects what is becoming a way of life for vast

segments of the population.

But Why?

The answer, for most people, lies in a combination of "romance," craftsmanship, aesthetics, and financial practicality.

Let's look at the "romance" first. An old house has character. It's a romantic link with the past; a reflection of personalities from other times. Having lived through many decades, an old house bears the imprint of all its previous occupants, giving it a unique personality.

Another contribution to the character of an old house is the fact that it was made by the hand of man—not mass produced by a machine.

This point takes us into the area of aesthetics and craftsmanship.

Because it was made by man, an old house displays craftsmanship and detail that cannot be duplicated today unless one spends a

fortune. Affordable new houses usually lack the individuality found in the craftsmanship of old houses. Increasing numbers of people are growing tired of seeing row after row of "sameness" springing up over out countryside. Although it's beyond the budget of most home buyers to create "custom homes," it is within their abilities to restore and preserve the work of the long-ago craftsman.

In addition to the individuality that is afforded by hand craftsmanship, quality construction and building materials are also found in older handcrafted houses.

Made in solid wood construction with wooden joints and wooden floors, most old houses sport a degree of fine detail work uncommon today. This detail work in window and door moldings, fireplaces, staircases and exterior trim is what gives each old

house its charm as well as its feeling of stability and quality.

Consider the price of such construction today. Although construction costs have skyrocketed, most new homes are not as durable as those of the past.

Another point to be made is that there is a feeling of accomplishment to be gained by fixing up an old house. It can be a truly creative and self-satisfying job.

Last of all, in preserving an old house you are guarding a piece of human history for future generations. A good question to ask ourselves is: what quality heritage are we leaving our children?

When one thinks of all these points and also takes into account the lovely variety of period architecture we are fortunate enough to still have in the area, is it so hard to see why restoration has indeed become a way of life for so many people?

Special education classes looking for VIP volunteers

Are you looking for something special to do now that the business of the holidays is past? There are special children throughout all of Lancaster and Lebanon Counties who need you.

Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 has classes for exceptional students in school district buildings throughout the two counties. In each classroom an I.U. 13 teacher, along with a teacher's aide, works with special students who need much more help and attention than can be found in a regular classroom. Perhaps the student is mentally retarded, has a learning disability, or is in some way physically handicapped. As an I.U. 13 volunteer, you can fill a tremendous need for these students.

By volunteering through the Volunteer Interaction

Program in a special education classroom you may provide the extra helping hands, or the special friend, that teachers and students alike need.

The duties of a volunteer may include tutoring, recreational game-playing, assisting with self-care skills, or any other help a teacher may need. Quite often, teachers may make specific requests for volunteers with special talents such as music, woodworking, or homemaking skills, or storytellers and story readers.

Volunteers can be male or female, of any age, and can serve any school day. No set amount of time is required of volunteers.

If you want to offer your services, call Maureen Gible, VIP Coordinator at Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13, 569-7331. And thank you!

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