

From New Zealand To Fulton

Hi! My name is Linda Marshall. I am a Rotary Exchange Student from New Zealand and am spending my twelve-month term in Fulton and attending the G. Ray Bodley High School at which I am a senior. During my twelve month term of being hosted by the Fulton Rotary club, I am to stay with several Rotary families, my first one with whom I have been staying for the past 3 1/2 months being Mr. and Mrs. Richard Haven.

Twelve months ago, I was selected by the Dannevirke Rotary Club in New Zealand to serve my family, school, town and country in the United States for twelve months. Along with me, three of my class mates were also chosen to serve for a year in the states. Unlike myself, my friends arrived in the States in mid-January - Roslyn Allardice being hosted by the Ridley Park Rotary Club in Chester, Pa., and Pauline Stephenson by the Ruidoso Rotary Club of Carlsbad, New Mexico. At this point, a Host Club was yet to be found for myself, and it was not until mid January 1970 that I knew I would be posted in New York State, and not until May that I was informed of my Rotary Host Club and family. My departure from New Zealand was the 27th of August and enroute, I had stops at Nandi in the Fiji Islands, Honolulu, Los Angeles, and New York; the entire flight taking 32 hours up until the time that I arrived at Syracuse airport.

Both home and school life in the United States are very much different to that in New Zealand. Because New Zealand is prominent in the breeding of fine beef cattle, there is much more meat eaten in the house of the average New Zealander. This, among many other foods such as baked vegetables and desserts are quite typical of New Zealand meals and I found a considerable difference in the diet of the average American citizen and that of the average New Zealander.

Another new experience for me is to live in the city, as all my life I have lived on a farm except for the past 3 1/2 years while I was at high school and spent week days boarding in the local township. Both my parents have a black Angus Cattle Stud, which is situated six miles from the nearest town, namely, Takapau which has a population of 350. Takapau is located in the North Island of New Zealand, in the province of Hawkes Bay, 50 miles from the east coast. My parent's farm is 350 acres large of perfectly flat land to which the Angus bred of cattle are suitably adapted. On the farm, there are 250 head of cattle, 75% of which is owned by my father and the remaining 25% by my mother. We raise the cattle for several purposes; the principal purpose being for export. In the past, we have exported our cattle to such countries as Japan, Argentina, Australia, Great Britain, and the United States. The other purposes of breeding the cattle are for showing at the various fairs throughout the country, and for local beefeaters. Other animals bred on the farm are Perendale Stud sheep and both thoroughbred and show horses which reflect my favorite pastime, horse riding, which I have been doing since my early childhood. My 15-year old sister, Judy, who is in her second year at High School, like myself also has her own horses.

During the winter months of the year, I spend a lot of time hunting hare on horses and during the summer I participate in riding and jumping events at the local fairs and pony club meets. At the homestead, we also have a swimming pool which reflects another of my fondest pastimes, swimming. The outdoor swimming season in New Zealand lasts from November through March which are the summer months of the year. Other interests of mine are tennis, basketball, meeting and making new friends and corresponding with friends.

School life in New Zealand is very much different to that in the United States, as it follows the English education system. After kindergarten when a child becomes 5 years of age, he enters primary school where he begins his education in primer 1 which is the equivalent of grade 1 in the States. When the student has completed his primer 4 year, he then enters the standard classes which range from standard 1 thru standard 4. (Standard 4 would be equivalent to grade 6 or 7). After the completion of the standard tiers of primary school, the student then enters his final 2 years of primary school in classes form 1 and 2. All the above education process takes place in the primary school although, in the bigger cities, there are intermediate schools which cater for those in forms 1 and 2 or standards 5 and 6 as they are sometimes referred to as.

The intermediate school serves exactly the same purpose as the American junior high school. Normally, the pre-high school student finishes his primary education at the age of 13, but in the case of students who are above-average, they can skip up to two or three years in the standard classes according to the standard of intelligence of the pupil which means that he will graduate from pre-secondary education at the age of 11 or 12, and after the summer vacation which lasts from mid-December through until the beginning of February, the student will enter the third form at high school (or college, which is another term used for high school.) The high school or college years range from form 3 through form 7. It is not necessary, however, to attend high school for these five years. A student is free to leave high school at the age of 15 years which is usually the second or fourth form year. But, those who wish to gain certain high school qualifications for entering universities or for a certain profession, usually spend at least 3 years at high school depending upon the student's future ambitions.

I feel that the education systems of both the United States and New Zealand have been very good experiences for me and I have enjoyed both of them very much. New Zealand is a democratic country, the two major parties being the national party and the labour party. The national party is in power at the present time and has been for the past 10 years. The leader of the National party and prime minister of the country is Sir Keith Holyoake. The national elections are held every three years, the most vital votes being the electoral votes. The major religions of New Zealand are Anglican (Church of England), Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, with Methodist and Baptist as the more minor ones.

The major exports from New Zealand are mutton, beef, timber, wool and milk and butter products. From this, one can gather that New Zealand is strictly an agricultural country for as yet, its industrial resources have not developed to any great extent. Many areas in the south island however

are rich in coal, iron and steel. In the North Island a rather large fishing industry is beginning to develop, but as the country does not possess many natural resources, there is not much chance of New Zealand becoming a prominent industrial country. New Zealand is a member of the British Commonwealth and has close trading ties with both Great Britain and Australia.

I think that my experience in the United States has been one of the most wonderful things that have ever happened to me. In the three months that I have been here to date, I have seen very much of the Continent and have been extremely interested in everything that I have seen. There is a tremendous contrast between this country and my own and it was not

until now, 1970, that I have become aware of and appreciated what I have seen and experienced.

After my time is up in the United States, I am flying directly over to Scotland where I will be staying for two weeks visiting relations. Then I shall be going to Calgary in Canada to attend an inter-Pacific Pony Club Rally in which some of my friends from my own Pony Club in New Zealand have been nominated to participate. I shall be spending a few days in Calgary and then continuing home around the other half of the world which I did not pass through on my way over to the States.

Annually, Americans consume about 18 billion pounds of bread and similar products, or about 93 pounds a person

About People

Mrs. Gladys Buell has returned from Virginia where she spent Christmas with her son in law and daughter, Col. and Mrs. J. J. Jettimah and children.

Miss Helen Seymour Onida Street, is a patient in Lee Memorial Hospital.

Miss Frances Wood of York Pa. was a Christmas guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Wood.

Card of Thanks

We, the family of Eunice Haggis, who passed away Dec. 16, 1970, wish to thank her many friends for their kind expressions of sympathy.

Mr. and Mrs. Ceamer Wilcox
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Skelton
Mr. and Mrs. James Carl and Children
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Skelton and daughter
Mr. and Mrs. Andely Hargett and Children

Lawrence O'Connor, son of O'Connor Mt. Pleasant was from Murray of Mr. and Mrs. James Road, was home for Christ University, Kentucky.



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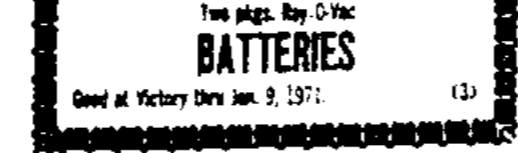
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