

Buenos dias Georgetown



EVERY GIRL LIKES TO SHOP and Jenny Blasu and Allison MacDonald are no exceptions. The girls plan to visit most of the local malls and boutiques before the three-week experiment draws to a close.

If you're of the opinion that a typical Mexican sits under his sombrero in the warm Mexican sun and does nothing, you are dead wrong.

Trying to follow the group of 12 Mexican visitors to Georgetown around is enough to tire anyone, including their host families. In the week they have been here many have already seen more of the area than the average resident has in his lifetime, and they still have another two weeks to go.

This Experiment in Living is part of the UNESCO program to let young people share in how others around the world live. The program has been in operation since 1952 and has been responsible for providing the beginning of many long-lasting world-wide friendships.

The group arrived Tuesday of last week and met their host families for the first time at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Humphries of Edith Street. Prior to that, each of the families received a brief biographical outline of the newest addition to their family.

"I feel these people are my family," explained Elias Mercado, leader of the group. Elias is staying with the Humphries and, thus far, has beaten the family at Squash, seen Yonge Street, ridden by bicycle to Terra Cotta and

generally has a good time.

Margot Humphries noted that while on the way to Toronto Elias asked, "How far away were they from home?"

"I thought it was interesting for him to call Georgetown his home," said Mrs. Humphries.

Commerce Court in Toronto impressed Jenny Bissu, when she visited the city last week.

"I'm from Mexico City," explained Miss Bissu. "But we don't have anything that compares to that." She was disappointed in the CN Tower not being completed to permit a visit.

Things such as the GO Train, the clean air and cold water of our lakes and rivers are different to Jenny. "The average lake temperature in Mexico is around 83 degrees," while the temperature of the MacDonalds pool where Jenny is staying is only 77.

Jean MacDonald and her family have taught Jenny how to wash dishes, but accidents can happen to the best of us and Jenny cut herself on a glass in the process.

"Your air is so clean compared to that of Mexico," furthered Jenny. Mexico City has a population of around 12 million compared to the 32,000 of Halton Hills.

The group will be touring the University of Guelph, the Canadian National Exhibition,

Toronto and Niagara Falls before they return to their other homes.

"I feel as if I am the 32,001 citizen of Halton Hills," explained Elias. "I am not a stranger here."

The group is planning a special Mexican night with food they each have prepared, just before the end of their visits. Each of them brought the ingredients for a dish with them on the plane.

The group consists of Elias and Jenny, Helga Neubauer, Francisco Javier Arce, Norberto Lopez, Lillian Mercado, Joaquin Obregon, Violetta Leon, Juan, Juan Salceda, Patricia Susita and Jesus Rios.

"Most of the members of the group are from Mexico City while a few are from neighboring small towns of around 300,000 people," explained Elias.

The group are not tourists. They are not here to see the tall buildings and the souvenir stands but to live with the people and learn how Canadians really live, eating food prepared as Canadians eat and, in many cases, paying Canadian prices.

"Cigarettes cost three times as much," added Jenny.

But that is all part of the life they have come to study and experience.



CANADA IS NOT NEW to Elias Mercado, leader of the 12 member experiment in Living Program that is being conducted with several Halton Hills families.



STUDYING THE CANADIAN ATLAS to determine where she is in relation to the rest of the world is Violetta Leon who will be spending the remaining two weeks of her trip with the Murrays of RRS Georgetown.



IN THE TRUNK AND OFF WE GO. Norbert Lopez with his Canadian family, the Alexanders of Norval head for home after the reception.



THE DIFFERENCES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES was one of the many topics for discussion before the reception, held at the home of the Humphries, broke up. Jesus Rios will be staying with the Andersons of Norval.



FINDING THE RIGHT HOSTS in a room full of temporary strangers is sometimes difficult but Helga Neubauer was quick to find her new friends, the Arbuckles of Irwin Crescent.



GETTING ACQUAINTED is very much a part of the program as Lillian Mercado and her hostess Karen Munroe took time out to do at the reception held when the guests arrived last Tuesday.