

Exchange student Marilyn Thorne is back

She misses the warmth of Brazilians

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald Staff Writer
Georgetown's latest Rotary Exchange student Marilyn Thorne was homesick at first when she left Canada last year, but now that she's home, she misses Brazil.

"One thing I really miss from Brazil is the human warmth," she said. "When you're walking on the street, you see someone you know, it doesn't matter whether it's a girl or a boy, and they greet you with a hug and three kisses."

"Brazilians are so warm, and they show their affection so openly," she continued. "They show their affection physically, not just in words."

Marilyn spent almost 13 months in Brazil with three different families. She stayed an extra month so she could attend Carnival, a party which runs continuously for five days.

Marilyn, who is 19, spent most of the year in a city called Lins, a place with all sorts of different schools for everything from dentistry to plastic art. Lins is known as the City of Schools, she said.

"Any time the schools were out on holidays, the city was dead," she said. "As soon as they get off school, everyone goes home. It's sort of a transfer, because all the people who live in Lins go to school somewhere else, and the people who live elsewhere come to Lins to go to school."

One of the differences Marilyn noted between students in Canada and Brazil is the fact that when Brazilian students get their summer holidays, in December, January and February, they travel, where Canadian students usually begin an immediate search for work.

STUDIED LANGUAGE
Marilyn lived with families who spoke mainly Portuguese, a language she was totally unfamiliar with when she arrived. She said after about a week, she could understand some of what was being said around her, but it took six or seven months before she was really comfortable in the language. She had studied French in school, and credits this with making it easier to learn Portuguese.

In fact, now that she's back in Canada, and speaking English again, Marilyn says she has difficulty thinking in English. She said when one of her friends telephoned after she arrived home, she began

without thinking to talk in Portuguese.

Marilyn said Lins is a city in

said "After I'd been there for a while, everybody knew me, and I'd walk down the street,

she added, "a trip to the ice cream parlor is like a fashion show, and if you go to the

People think of Brazil as a hot, tropical climate, but during June, July and August, the temperature can drop down to -10 degrees Celsius, she said.

CLIMB TO 40
But in the summer the temperature can climb to 40 degrees Celsius, or 104 degrees Fahrenheit, she continued. The homes tend to be designed for the extreme heat, with open windows and doors, and as a result, it's very cold in the winter, Marilyn said.

"And I've never seen such a country for rain," she said. "It rained for part of November, all of December and part of January."

Brazilians have different eating habits than what Canadians are accustomed to, Marilyn said. They eat breakfast consisting of bread, coffee and milk. Lunch is a full dinner every day, and is followed by a siesta. Every day, lunch and dinner include the same dish of rice and beans, she said.

Marilyn said that before she arrived in Brazil, she was expecting to have certain restrictions placed on her, and to have to conform to rules set out by the families she was staying with, but instead she was allowed to come and go pretty much as she pleased. She was never chaperoned, although the custom persists.

Marilyn said in a family where there is a son and a daughter, the daughter might not be allowed to go out on a date unless her brother accompanied them. She would also not be allowed to be in a car alone with a boy.

For entertainment, young people in Brazil can see first-run movies from the United States for the equivalent of 75 cents. There are also dances which begin at midnight and continue until the sun comes up. Then everyone goes home for a big feast, Marilyn said. "I loved the dances," she said.

But the best fun of all was Carnival, Marilyn said. She watched Carnival in Rio de Janeiro on television because "it's expensive and it's dangerous," but she went to the Carnival in Lins.

"Carnival was the best five nights of my life," Marilyn said. "It's five days of non-stop dancing, drinking, costumes, partying, and fantasy. They have a marvellous parade, and they judge the entries, and the best one is awarded a fantastic cash prize. And at the end of Carnival, I was awarded a

trophy for being the liveliest one there!"

Marilyn finished high school before she left Canada for Brazil, but she wasn't idle during her stay.

PLAYED PIANO
"I couldn't stand not to be busy," she said. "Anything that went past my nose, I did. Anything I wanted, I went after and I wasn't about to stop until I had it."

Among her activities were learning how to paint, crochet, and play the piano. She took a course in photography and one in interior decorating, and gave private lessons in English. She also took a nursing course, for which she had hoped to receive a credit, but because of her travels, she missed too many classes.

I did some interning at a hospital, three times a week, in all the different areas of the hospital," Marilyn said. "I didn't like the course but I like the hospital work. I worked for about two months in the surgical area, and that was my favorite, because I was able to see them performing surgery,

which I'd never seen before."

Marilyn said she isn't sure what she wants to do now that she's back in Canada, but she'd like to be able to put the Portuguese she's learned to use, although she doesn't know how that could be done.

Marilyn did a lot of travelling while she was in Brazil and visited many different cities. In one city, Ouro Preto, a company called General Minerals mines semi-precious stones, and she bought a number of them for souvenirs. Among the stones she brought back are topaz, opals, amethysts, tourmalines, aquamarines and onyx.

Marilyn said the students cut stones and sell them to tourists to finance their studies.

Marilyn said she particularly misses the third family she stayed with, because they treated her like a member of the family, "like I was one of their daughters." She spent Christmas with this family in Brazil, people open their gifts shortly before midnight Christmas Eve and then have a huge feast at midnight.

Marilyn said when she first arrived in Brazil, she was more homesick for her native Barbados than she was for Canada, because Brazil reminded her of Barbados. She and her family emigrated to Canada in 1969.

"I miss Brazil a lot. After a year there, I was more Brazilian than the natives," she said. "I was very unhappy to say good-bye to my last family. I'll write to them, but I'd just like to have them with me. It's good that they speak some English because I'll be able to write them in English if I forget my Portuguese."

Marilyn said that she learned to be independent while she was away for a year.

"When you live with your parents, you're not completely independent because they're always there to help you and you never really have to do it on your own," she said.

"I'm still trying to get used to the fact that I'm back in Canada," Marilyn said. "I can't believe a year has gone so fast. I loved every second of it."



Rotary Exchange student Marilyn Thorne shows the trophy she won during her stay in Brazil for being the liveliest person at Carnival. Marilyn arrived back in Canada Sunday morning after a 13-month stay in Brazil. It took her a while to become fluent in Portuguese, but now that she's back, it's difficult to adjust to speaking and thinking in English again, she says.

(Herald photo)

the interior of Brazil and has a rigid class system. While the city has its wealthy citizens, the salaries are low, and many Brazilians have two or three jobs, she said.

"The people in Lins were so wonderful to me," Marilyn said and they'd say hello." Brazilian men and women take a lot of care with their appearance, Marilyn said. The men dress up, instead of wearing t-shirts, jeans and running shoes, she said. "The girls dress up, too,"

movies you really dress up. The girls wear a lot of jewelry too. I don't know how they can stand up with all the chains and necklaces they wear." The weather in Brazil is not entirely what people in Canada think it is, Marilyn said.



AND THE BAND PLAYED ON
The Edmonton Thunderbirds arrived in Acton last week for a week-long stay culminated with the Acton High School band. The flute section is shown here rehearsing prior to the Thursday concert. The evening's program began with a concert by the Thunderbirds, and concluded with the band playing together for a few numbers. (Guelph Mercury photo)

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Area investigator shuns TV 'private eye' image

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

Television's image of the private investigator leaves the notion that he or she leads a glamorous life full of close calls and large expense cheques, but Robert Hunter, head of Hunter Investigations and Security Ltd. in Brampton, likes to promote a rather different image.

His investigators need a good personality, good physical presence, common sense and the patience of Job, Mr. Hunter told The Herald recently. If they have these things, they can learn to keep their mouths shut and their eyes and ears open during the training he gives new employees.

To be licensed as a private investigator, an applicant must be 21, and have no criminal record. The Ontario Provincial Police licence each investigator and the licence must be renewed each March.

Mr. Hunter said he finds women to be better investigators than men.

"They're more particular in getting information and most of them have a better way with people for getting the information they need," he says. "There is no maximum age, although the minimum is 21. I have a lady investigator who is 68. She's probably one of the best ones I've known. Women are just generally more reliable than guys with investigations."

Apart from training with a firm like Mr. Hunter's, a prospective investigator could finish Grade 12 or 13 and then take the two-year law enforcement course at Humber, Seneca or Sheridan College. Very few graduates actually turn to private investigation, Mr. Hunter says.

SIX YEARS
Mr. Hunter himself has

spent six years as an insurance underwriter, seven years with the Chinguacousy police force and five years with a Toronto Law firm. He also served as the Toronto office manager of the world's third largest security and investigation firm.

From modest beginnings with two employees when Mr. Hunter started his business in 1977, it has grown to support a staff of approximately 15 investigators and 150 security guards. Many investigators only work part-time and hold down another job as well. The turn-over in security guards is tremendous.

Mr. Hunter's firm has three divisions: investigations, which he handles himself; security, which is run by Peter Aljas; and special events which is handled by Ester Lehner.

The special events category includes such things as looking after the Player's International tennis tournament at York University, various bazaars, and the Miss Canada and Miss Teen Canada Pageants this month.

Miss Lehner has been with the firm more than a year and is just completing her law enforcement course at Humber. In working for a special event, she will not only organize the security, she will also have to work out things like crowd control so that minor irritations don't turn into arguments or even fights.

The Hunter agency hires literally hundreds of students for special events and not all of them have to be 18. They are not expected to learn fancy self-defence techniques. Their basic philosophy is public relations.

"If the thing is set up positively to avoid confusion

there is very rarely a need to use force," Mr. Hunter says. "We use a lot more girls at special events. They have a nicer way about them and even an irate guy will think twice about swearing at a girl."

Men now wear blazers and slacks while the girls wear three-piece suits. They have gotten away from the military police look security guards once used, since it seemed to antagonize some people and, in terms of good public relations, this was seen as a poor image, Mr. Hunter says.

Mr. Hunter said he feels that security and investigations go hand in hand. His licence allows him to work anywhere in Ontario. He can also send investigators out of the province to follow up on a case as long as the investigation began in Ontario.

One of his longest cases began in Ontario and has gone around the world. His client's husband took the couple's young son with him to Monaco and obtained a divorce there without her knowledge. Since then, he has been to Brazil, Germany, Vancouver, Zurich Switzerland, and the Isle of Man with one of Mr. Hunter's people on his trail.

LUCRATIVE PART

While investigations are the most lucrative part of the business because they are more technical and therefore the cost can be higher, security provides more money because it's strictly bulk. Investigators earn \$5 to \$7.50 an hour, plus car expenses if they are using their own vehicles. Security guards get \$3.85 to \$5 an hour.

While Hunter's may be the only investigation firm in Brampton, there are six others in Peel, a couple in Oakville, one in Burlington and 107 in Toronto.

The firm belongs to the

International Police Congress, so if he turned down a job he could probably suggest someone else who could meet the client's needs, Mr. Hunter says.

The police set no rules concerning what a company can charge. Clients in some cases may be asked as much as \$40 an hour for investigations. Mr. Hunter asks his clients for a retainer and works on a case until it is either finished or the money is used up. He will then either refund the remainder of the retainer or ask for more, depending on the situation.

As well as investigation, the company serves documents such as summonses. One of his people showed the ingenuity to earn his pay.

"We were asked to serve a summons to this guy the sheriff couldn't get," Mr. Hunter says. "The sheriff had tried unsuccessfully for some time, so we knew we had to be prepared. Our person went to a telephone booth across from his office and called him. When he answered the phone and admitted his identity, the caller asked him to hold the line a moment, ran across the road and knocked on his door. He was still on the phone when he handed him the summons, so he couldn't refuse it."

Mr. Hunter has no use for firearms in his business.

"I wouldn't have them if I could," he says emphatically. "We don't need them. That would only be asking for trouble and it's best to avoid them. I suppose, I'd ask for them if I was looking after a big contract for cigarettes, money or drugs. Otherwise, I want no part of them."

ALL VALUABLE

Mr. Hunter feels that no matter what previous work an investigator has been in, it is all valuable experience.

The company booklet lists complete insurance, commercial, criminal and domestic investigation, pre-trial investigation, background information on individuals or organizations and factual material for managements considering a merger or acquisition as part of their service capabilities. They also supply photographic evidence with both still or movie film, locate witnesses and serve subpoenas, trace missing persons or lost heirs, do electronic sweeps to detect hidden microphones or other intrusion devices, and supply undercover investigators who work as employees for the client, to explore and control inside thefts, embezzlement or any of a host of other infringements.

Investigations are done in all major languages and 24 hour, seven day a week service is offered.

Hunter's services also include commercial and residential security, industrial security, patrol car service, construction site service and special events.

Although Brampton is the home base, Mr. Hunter commented he has done plenty of work in Georgetown and Acton. Among his cases were re-examination of defence witnesses in preparation for the trial following the 1978 death of a Georgetown man in the McGibbon Hotel. His company also supplied security during the filming of Never Trust an Honest Thief this past summer.

He says his company does a lot of litigation work for Toronto lawyers. He also does a tremendous amount of legal aid investigations, "probably more than any other company in Ontario." Most firms aren't interested in legal aid work because it takes so long to get paid, he says.



Hunter Investigations is divided into three parts. Bob Hunter (seated) runs the investigations section. Ester Lehner organizes special events and Peter Aljas looks after the security section of the business. (Herald photo)