Cultural changes for Cathy 'blue-eyes'

By ANI PEDERIAN

Herald Staff Writer Her blue eyes were a dead give-away for Kathy Aggias.

The 20-year old Limehouse woman only had to open her eyes and everyone knew she was a forelgner.

Taking part in a sixmonth exchange program with Canada World Youth, Kathy recently spent three months living and working in Colombia. South America.

Most Colombians have brown eyes and brown hair.

"You can't go out by yourself," Kathy said of women, "The men always hiss at you, like snakes, if you do. And if you look, means you're

Restrepo (above).

By JANET DUVAL

Herald Special

supermarkets you can

buy apples grown local-

ly for about 50 cents a

pound, and you can buy

bananas grown 3,000

miles away in Central

America for 45 cents a

This week, many Canadians publicly cri-

ticized federal govern-

ment policies on the

economy, defence and

tax laws, while several

people in Central America were arrested

or shot, for voicing

This week, dozens of

clubs, night school

classes and religious congregations in

Georgetown met freely,

while in parts of Guate-mala and El Selvador,

such gatherings could

have brought instant

Why? These concerns

will be among those dis-

cussed at a special pro-

gramme this Sunday

evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

at St. George's Anglican

Church. Georgetown's

new "Ten Days for

World Development"

group, representing six

local churches, will

sponsor a presentation on Central America as part of its aim to

increase local awaren-

"developing" countries.

Joseph formerly with the Catholic Mission in

Guntemala, will speak

and present the halfhour film "Seeds of

Liberty". She will be accompanied by a

former newspaper edit-or from El Salvador who

is now on the death list

Sister Anastasia of Milton, a Sister of St.

World

conditions in

action by the military.

similar criticisms.

pound.

This week in local

interested. You have to look at the ground." Cultural differences be-

tween men and women struck Kathy while she was away. She found men were very macho in Colombia, and their masculine pride took some getting used to.

Differences between the social classes struck Kathy as well. She found a big contrast between the rich and poor.

"A poor person here is not the same as a poor person in Colombia," Kathy said. "Here, the poor have shoes. In Colombia, they don't. The Canadian middle class would be considered rich in Colombia."

THREE MONTHS Kathy was one of 50

Ontario young people 17 to 20 years old who lived and worked in a Third World country for three months, then came back to work another three months in Ontario. Canada World Youth

'What does this little boy want?'

paid her airfare to Colombia, her room and board during the program and \$10 a week in spending money. The organization is a non-profit one in its eleventh year of operation, with 23 countries

participating. Leaving Canada July 22, Kathy flew to Bogota, the capital of Colombia, a city about the size of

Toronto. There, her first day, she was robbed walking down the street with two other

Canadians. "We looked like 'gringos' (Americans)," Kathy explained, "I felt someone grabbing my arm, and I thought, 'What does this little boy

Called gamines, the street children had knives in their hands, and went through the girls' pockets.

The gamines are a. problem in the city, robbing to stay alive. Although a number of convent schools have been opened for them, the gamines run

away from them because they don't like them. They like the freedom of the streets, said Juan Florez.

TOOK PART Juan is a native of Colombia who took part in the program with Kathy. He's staying with Rathy now, hoping to get a

an American university. A business administration student going into his second year of university in Colombia, Juan said he plays basketball for the Bogota team.

basketball scholarship at

"When I came here, my first shock was Yonge Street," he said. "The people are very serious. guiet, and the streets are very empty, not busy like in Bogota.

Juan said most Canadians know nothing about Colombia. They ask him if there are buildings, if there are streets, if there are movies and If there is rock music in Colombia.

When he goes out alone, he finds people not as friendly as back home. "People will help me, but they won't help me with the heart," Juan said.

Everything is very planned in the life of Canadians, with little time left free, he noted.

"The climate is part of your cultural develop-: ment," Juan observed. 'You have to organize; you have to prepare for the seasons. We don't have seasons in Colombis. We don't have to worry about food for the next month, it's always

growing." ALWAYS LATE

The different approach to time by Canadians became apparent to Juan when the elderly woman he was living with for three months in Barrie, bought him a watch because he was always

In Colombia, Kathy found herself adjusting to the relaxed approach to time. When a get-together was planned for 1 p.m., she learned to show up three or four hours later.

Living three months in a very poor town of 2,000 people, called Restrepo, Kathy picked up the Colombian pace of life. She learned to walk slow. so the heat of the day wouldn't bother her as much. Temperatures were regularly 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 30 degrees centigrade, she

In Restrepe, she lived on a milk farm owned by a rich family. She would get up at 4:30 a.m. to milk 30 cows every day, a chore she'd never done before. Kathy also got to shovel manure and feed the pigs.

AFTER DEATH When the woman of the family got sick, a witch doctor was called to the home. The woman believed in the spiritual healing powers of San Gregorio and had a doll of the Venezuelan doctor who became a saint after his

Fabio, a Colombian youth on the exchange

SECTION A. THE HERALD, Wednesday, February 2, 1963 - Page 9 **the HERALD** Family

program with Kathy who was billeted in the same Home, would tell Kathy it was time to leave the

house everytime the witch doctor came. The woman didn't want the two young people in

the bouse when the spirits were visiting, Kathy explained. Continued on page A12

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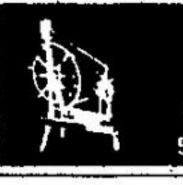
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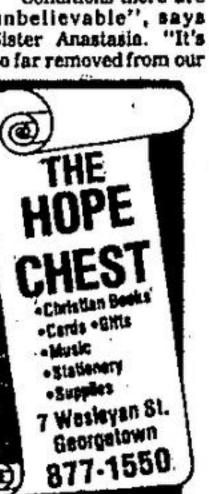
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there, and in exile. "Conditions there are unbelievable", says Sister Anastasia. "It's so far removed from our **(a)** 

to live daily with fear. soldiers all about, family members disappeared. And people here don't know much of the history. I was there in 1968 when

Special programme on

Third World development experience in Canada:..

A liking for rice cakes was acquired by Georgetown's Kathy Aggiss while she was

away in Colombia for three months this past fall. She would buy the treat from a little boy who would regularly visit her while she was living in the very poor village of

> 70,000 people were killed. The streets ran with blood."

Each of the seven countries of Central America is different, she points out. Some, Continued on page A12



(Photos by Kathy Aggis)

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