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Wednesday, January 31/96 San Juan de Dios

Not being able to speak Spanish very well makes me afraid to visit the locals in their homes. But when I finally did, it was very cool. One local, Nixon, took me and showed me his farm and the different things. A lot of people here have to farm to eat. Nixon has goats, chickens, a mule, a cow, ducks and a pig - oh yeah, dogs too. When we walked around the few hectares they owned the numerous types of fruits and vegetables amazed me. There were Yuka, plantanos, bananas, chote, lots of types of chili peppers, potato like things, beans, different kinds of coconuts, oranges and even more. Seeing all of this stuff made me realize a person is able to totally live off the land.

Sunday, Feb.11/96 San Juan de Dios
Rosearra, a Y.C.I. leader, came to visit us for a mid-project report. She talked to the people in our community to see what they thought of the whole deal. They like us and can't believe the amount of work we have done here. One man said "They are good Workers" (and also mentioned how beautiful we were - 7

females, 4 males). We had completed a lot of work in 5 weeks. They had predicted 1 1/2 years for the aqueduct to be completed. When we leave there will only be about 6 or 8 more months left to complete it. But it really isn't us that have been doing the work, these men in the community are so strong, we did what we could - but they did most of the work. I just think a lot of people came to help work because they couldn't figure out why we would come from so far - Canada, Australia and different parts of Costa Rica to help them build their aqueduct. They worked with us out of respect to show us they really cared about this happening in their community, and

also because they liked to hear us sing in English all day at work.

Saturday, Feb. 17/96 San Juan de Dios.

I would like to learn more Spanish when I come back, so I can speak it and understand people. I would love for my family and friends to see this and be here. Things like riding horses and walking everywhere or just sleeping on the floor and the whole deal. I have such a great feeling in my stomach and heart right now - just from being here and having these people around me - they are so nice. It's like one of those feelings when you can say that you are really happy to be alive here and now.

- Vicki Emlaw



*Some of the volunteer work group taking a break at the dig in Guayabo.
(That's Vicki in the centre).*

Let us know of any upcoming event of your club or organization and we will be glad to let all of our readers know about it. We will do all we can to help make your project successful. Advise us also if you are starting a new enterprise or have any announcements regarding an already established business. Just call 476-3798 and provide us with the details.