

Exchange Student Is From France

Towering skyscrapers above the shadowy mist of New York City impressed Marie Monique Ruffat as she took her first apprehensive look at her new home, America.

The American Field Service Exchange Student came from Perpignan, France, a town located in the South about 20 miles from Spain and 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, having a population of 85,000 people.

The third oldest in a family of six children, she is the second member to be chosen as an exchange student to the United States. Marie's oldest brother, John, was the first member of the family to undergo this exciting experience. Marie is very proud of her father, who is a contractor, and her mother, who is busy at home with three other sisters and one brother.

Marie finds quite a difference in the two school systems. Ages for high school students in France are 11 through 18. In an academic year each student completes 12 courses. This is made possible by having no extra-curricular activities.

Every day except Thursday and Sunday, French students attend class from eight through twelve and two through four or five o'clock, with a two-hour break to go home for lunch.

It is interesting to note the number of foreign languages Marie has been exposed to. She has had six years of English, four years of Spanish, seven years of Latin, and one and one-half years of Russian.

There isn't much conversation between students and teachers. Students remain standing beside their desks until seated by the teacher and remain there until dismissed.

In Marie's school there are no extra-curricular activities and no school spirit. Therefore it is understandable that the A.S.H.S. football games leave her in a state of excitement, enthusiasm and interest. As if this were not enough excitement for one night, the A.S.H.S. marching band adds an unforgettable highlight to the suspense filled evening.

Marie finds many differences in the two ways of life. For instance, in France there are no wooden houses, and wives spend more time in the kitchen because of the absence of canned and boxed foods.

Wearing apparel is much the same except for a few details. In France sweaters are worn longer, blouses are worn outside the skirt, and socks are not worn by girls after the age of 13.

Marie also finds that she will have to adjust to riding so much, since in France the main mode of transportation is walking.

After touring America, Marie Monique Ruffat plans to return to France to study at the School of Political Sciences in Paris, where she will further her study of the English language.

Marie finds the American people congenial and friendly. She is



FRENCH EXCHANGE STUDENT ENJOYS AMERICA

Marie Ruffat, center, is showing her American "sisters", Sylvia Wall, left, and Anita Wall, right, pictures of Paris in a book she brought as a gift to Dr. G. Ritchie Wall, in whose home she is living during the school year. Marie reached New York Sunday and the Wall family brought her to Albemarle Tuesday night. On the table may be seen bottles of perfume she brought to Sylvia and Anita and a beautiful pink vase she brought to Mrs. Wall. She also brought a number of picture postcards showing her home town of Perpignan and the neighboring countryside.

100-Member Band Ballgame Feature

The ASHS Band has accomplished much in the past weeks toward perfecting its marching and playing ability for the various events in which it will participate this year.

The most important function of the band at this time is to provide a half-time show at the foot-

very happy to be in America. Likewise the students of A.S.H.S. are happy to welcome her into their family.

ball games. "Entertainment U.S.A.," a show consisting of formations and old favorites in music, was performed at last week's game. Later in the season the band will do a take-off on compact cars and a "beatnik" band.

The officers of the band are Bobbie Atkins, president; Cathy Freeman, vice president; Barbara Furr, secretary-treasurer; and Cecilia Roache, drum majorette. The new majorettes are Loretta Holt, Annette Thomas, and Pam Lowder.

One hundred members make up the band. Fifty-six members have come up from the Junior High School, and forty-four members were in the Senior High School

Band last year.

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