

Peggy Brown Spends Rewarding Summer In Dijon France

By Liz Smith

A member of a French family—for two months last summer this phrase could be applied to Peggy Brown, who qualified through the



Peggy Brown

"Experiment in International Living."

Peggy and nine other girls who were also going to Dijon, France, for the summer under the auspices of the Experiment met first through the mail with a letter from their group leader, a 24-year-old French teacher who had formerly participated in the experiment herself.

The nine-day voyage on a student ship was designed to prepare the group, and other groups like it, to enjoy the French way of life that they would soon encounter. This included lectures by prominent Europeans and Americans, reports on research done by group members, and group meetings.

Although these meetings and lectures proved a great help later, the girls soon learned that experience was the better teacher.

All was not work on shipboard; Peggy said, "Someone described our voyage on the all-student ship as 'a nine day college week end.'"

Living with the French family began on Peggy's arrival in Dijon when the Henri Marten family met her at the train. The children of the family were Raymonde, 23, Michel, 20, and Patrick, 8.

English, French Spoken

Patrick went to the mountains to camp before Peggy arrived, and Michel had just left for two weeks at army camp. When Michel returned, he wanted to learn English, so he spoke English to Peggy, who spoke French in return. Each improved his speech by correcting the other. With the rest of the family, however, French was necessary, as they could not speak English.

Having been given Michel's room for the summer, Peggy, the rest of her group, and some of their French "sisters" began to take tours and participate in activities which they, the young people, had decided on. These tours took them to such places as the mustard factory and the chemical laboratory in Dijon, where they saw how bandages were made and wrapped. They went to see everything from a statue of the shell of Moses to a newspaper office. These excursions usually ended with a reception.

18 Day Camping Trip

On the first of August, the eleven American and eight French girls went on a camping trip which lasted 18 days. Riding in a bus (which even had extra seats), they went from Dijon to Geneva and down to the Midi (southern part of France). In all, they covered about 1500 miles, cooking out three times a day.

At night "well-patched" U. S. Army tents became home for the girls. Peggy said she usually slept "under the stars", because conditions in the tents were rather crowded—ten in one tent designed to hold four! Occasionally camps were set up on the public camp grounds, which had showers. Clothes were usually washed in the morning, and then left to dry hanging from racks in the bus.

Meals were French except on one special occasion when only Americans cooked, and that all-American dish, hamburgers, was served.

From August 18 to August 21, the girls returned to their "families" before going to Paris for a week.

Peggy feels that the Experiment was a worthwhile one and hopes to sions usually ended with reception.

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Choral Group Sings Oct. 2

Monday, October 2, the Choral Ensemble will present a concert for the members of the North Carolina Board of Conservation and Development. This program, consisting of spirituals, German songs in English translation, and current hits from Broadway musicals, will be given at the Robert E. Lee Hotel. Among the guests will be Governor Terry Sanford, who will speak during the meeting.

Officers for this year are Judy Newman, president; Peggy Farrow, vice-president; Frances Speas, secretary; Sara Kirk, treasurer; and Myrtie Moon Bilbro and Nancy Hughes, librarians.

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