

Laura Davenport Prepares For Summer In Brazil

Who will be spending the summer where it snows, where the food is spicy, and where she can't speak the language, but that's okay, because the natives can't speak hers? Answer — Laura Davenport, a rising senior who will be spending eight weeks this summer as an AFS exchange student in Brazil.

Laura will be living with Waldemar and Ofelia Pelisson in Londrina, a large city in the state of Parana. Laura's "mom" is a housewife and her "dad" is a coffee taster. Laura has two "sisters," ages 16 and 19, but they are both married so neither lives at home.

More younger children than teenagers live in the neighborhood where the Pelissons live. Their house is new, having two living rooms, a dining room, three bedrooms, a kitchen, and a front and back yard.

Both parents speak Portuguese, Brazil's national language. Mr. Pelisson also speaks Spanish and Mrs. Pelisson speaks French and a little Italian. The Pelissons are Catholic.

In the information Laura received from AFS, her mother-

to-be tells about herself and her family:

"We usually have busy days in our home, and we don't have too many family rules. My husband is a nice person and always ready to help anyone who needs help. His relationship with the family is good.

"I'm busy, too, because I always find much to do. I can't stay quiet for a long time. When I decide to paint the house, I paint the house. I love to talk and tell jokes. I also enjoy having people in the house."

Laura commented on her first reaction to the news that she would be going to Brazil:

"When I first found out about my family, I was totally frightened. There will be no teenagers in the home that I can associate with, and to top that, no one speaks English.

"Now that I've gotten accustomed to the idea, my feelings toward my 'family' have taken on a new light. I see our vast differences as a challenge. I've already begun my 'do-it-yourself' Portuguese lessons, with the help of a college text. My mom has started cooking my dinners with

a lot more spice. I hear some Brazillian foods will eat a hole in your stomach if you've never had them before.

"I was once told by a friend that he would never go to a foreign country if no one spoke his language. I laughed and said, 'That's strange, I wouldn't have it any other way'."

Laura will leave Rocky Mount June 27 and fly to New York where she will spend the night. She will leave for Brazil on the 28th and will arrive in Rio de Janeiro on the 29th. Laura will stay in Rio for three days for orientation. In July, Laura will spend time getting used to everything, and in August she will attend school. She will leave Brazil August 26 and will be back in Rocky Mount either the 26th or the 27th.



JIMMY LEAVES — Jimmy Apostoleris, RSMH's popular exchange student who will be leaving at the end of June, has really gotten into the swing of things in Rocky Mount.

Jimmy Reluctantly Leaves

As Susan Mooring said in the Senior Assembly, "The class of '75 is surely a unique class in every way." One reason is because Jimmy Apostoleris, the first foreign-exchange student in five years, is a member of the class.

Jimmy was a hit with the students, especially the girls, immediately. When Jimmy was introduced at the first school assembly, he stood up and waved, and there were loud successions of "Ohs" and "Ahs" from his instant admirers.

Jimmy has gotten a chance to see how an American high school operates. He has been interested in sports, scholastics, student government, and clubs. He said earlier in the year, "Students are really fortunate to have so many areas they can be involved in. In Greece, there is no such thing as clubs or committees and most im-

portantly football games."

Jimmy, who enjoys tennis, made the team this year. "We really are terrific especially when you compare us to other teams. We have great top players, but what is really great is that our players such as numbers 7-12 play an exceptionally great game. I'm really proud to be a part of the team.

"My family has really been wonderful" commented Jimmy. "They've become like a second family to me." Corbi Bulluck agrees with Jimmy concerning how close they have gotten. "He's a brother; that's all there is to it. I fight with him like I fight with my brothers. I love him like I love my other brothers."

One of the most important things that Jimmy has learned is that no matter where you are in the world, people are people and there is really no dif-

ference.

Jimmy has had a chance to see some of the big cities in the United States such as New York when he arrived, and New Orleans as a guest of the RSMH band. When there has been the chance Corbi Bulluck, his sister, and he have visited places such as Raleigh, Richmond, and nearby cities.

One of the things that has attracted Jimmy's attention is hamburgers. He simply loves them. "In Greece," he said, "there aren't any hamburger shops to go to."

Jimmy will have to return home around the end of June. It has gotten to the place now where the Bullucks and Jimmy hate to think about his leaving. During the school year he said "I'm so glad I go to Senior High." But now he says, "I have been so glad to go to Senior High, and I sure hate like everything to leave it."



SUMMER IN BRAZIL — Laura Davenport might have a little trouble getting everything to fit, but she's looking forward to her summer in Brazil.

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