

Amira Finds Kings Mountain Friendly

What Amira Diaz, 15, of Chile, likes best about Kings Mountain is the friendly people.

"Miri," as she is affectionately called by her friends, has also enjoyed her first "big" snowfall since arriving in North Carolina Jan. 8th, took her first skiing trip and enjoyed last weekend her first visit to Disney World.

The dark-haired Latin American beauty is adjusting "quite well to Kings Mountain and her first trip ever from her parents and family," Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Maaney, who are her American hosts for her three month's visit to this country as an exchange student at Kings Mountain Senior High School.

Under the Open Door Student Host Program Kings Mountain Senior High is participating for the first time in a short exchange program to provide an international educational exchange experience and brings Latin American high school students to the U.S. to attend school for part of the school year and live with a boy or girl of approximately the same age.

Miri is attending school here while her fellow classmates in Santiago, Chile are on summer holiday, and, of course, the study of English is her first academic concern since her participation in class and school activities will generally be related to her proficiency in our language.

Mrs. Ana Taylor, Spanish instructor at KMSHS, finds Miri a valuable addition to her class, giving the class an international flavor and her students the opportunity to converse with a Spanish-speaking student who also enjoys translating Spanish words to English.

An "A" student, Miri is also enrolled in English, biology, typing and physical education classes. She has studied English conversation since she began first grade in Santiago and plans to pursue a career in computer at the University of Santiago after graduation from a private girls school.

Miri likes the informal, casual lifestyle at KMSHS. At her school,

she says the students wear uniforms and the training is more formal.

With the aid of her Kings Mountain family, Lynn and Charles Maaney, Leigh, age 15, Carla, age 17, and Stephen, age 10, Miri was able to take to the slopes at Sugar Mountain and enjoy her first skiing experience. "I fell and am a little sore," said Miri after the weekend trip, "but I wouldn't have missed it." She came home immediately and wrote her parents, three brothers and sisters a long letter.

At the Maaney home on S. Roxford Rd., Miri has become one of the family and another sister for young Stephen. She is enjoying older daughter Kaki's room (Kaki is a junior at Meredith) and is becoming a Clemson-State fan and is encouraging her American sisters to apply for the Open Door Student Exchange Program and visit her in Latin America.

"It's a rewarding international experience for any family," says Mrs. Maaney. Even though the "Open Door" is requesting both boys and girls to provide hospitality, the program is especially in need of many more families who are willing to host a boy or girl in this country.

Before arriving in North Carolina, Miri and 165 other South American students arrived in Washington, D. C. for a four-day tour of the capital and for workshops and orientation.

Miri admitted her first flight was "very long" and she was bothered by the heavy turbulence when the airplane crossed the equator. She said she felt she "already knew my Kings Mountain family" because of the large amount of correspondence between the two families before Mia arrived. Mia's father is in the transport business in Chile and her mother is a music teacher. Her family also included twin brothers.

With Kings Mountain's winter weather including two surprise heavy snowfalls, the Maaney family was able to show their house-guest another new experience. Mira said that temperatures in her country at this season of the year are a balmy 90 degrees.

Miri enjoys the American hamburger and banana pudding as

favorite foods and her favorite school subjects are Spanish and Biology.

Although she has enjoyed meeting new friends and will be sad to leave her Kings Mountain family, Miri is anxious to return to Chile on March 18th.

Receiving four and five letters a day from her family and friends has kept Miri from becoming homesick, she said this week, and her American sisters and brothers have included her in all activities of the family and welcomed her with open arms, as has the community.

"We learned to speak more slowly and distinctly when Miri first came to our house," recalls Mrs. Maaney, who said that communication is hard at first even for those visiting students who are quite competent in English. After the first week of adjustment, there was little problem with languages and soon all the teenagers were chatting away in Spanish and English.

Teenagers are alike in every country, say the Maaneys, who praise the Open Door Student Exchange Program and recommend it for other area families.



IN SPANISH CLASSROOM - Amira Diaz, 15-year-old Latin American exchange student, enjoys Spanish in the classroom of KM Senior High and translates words from Spanish to English, above, at the black-

board. Spanish instructor Ana Taylor, left, observes. Mrs. Taylor said Amira is an "A" student, is also enrolled in English, Biology, Typing and PE classes.



EXCHANGE STUDENT - Amira Diaz, right, exchange student from Santiago, Chile, presents to Leigh Maaney, her Kings Mountain "sister," a handbag which was made in Latin America. Miss Diaz, a 10th grader, is enjoying her short visit in Kings Mountain.

The Women Behind The Wheel

By ELIZABETH STEWART

Women are moving more and more into high-paying jobs once held only by men.

And, at least one Kings Mountain area firm-Carolina Western Express, is providing in-company training for women truck drivers.

Thirteen women and nine men graduated Wednesday night from a unique-and first in this area-class for truck drivers sponsored by the trucking firm and held on the campus of Gaston College at Dallas.

The graduation exercises were held at Kings Mountain Motor Inn where diplomas were presented to

students by Dr. Bob Howard, of the Gaston staff, and a banquet of roast beef and fried chicken with all the trimmings was spread.

The eight week, or 320 hour course, ended last Friday when the students returned from long-haul driving to Weatherford, Texas and Shreveport, La., an experience which taught them night driving and stress testing. The students also learned safety, including the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course, preventive truck maintenance, Department of Transportation rules and regulations, proper procedures for

"Driver Daily Log" preparations, Interstate Commerce Commission rules and regulations, backing, interstate driving, secondary road driving, engine and transmission maintenance, shifting and tractor and trailer inspections, before, during or after trips.

Equipment, according to David L. Bayne, owner of the trucking firm which keeps about 200 trucks on the road, was donated by Kenworth tractor, Ford Motor Company tractor, General Motors tractor, utility trailers, Great Dane Trailers, Cummings engine, Eaton transmission and St. Paul Fire & Marine

Insurance Co.

James Ronald Pressley of Rock Hill, S.C. was graduated with honors and others who received certificates were Brenda Blackman, James T. Brady, Jane M. Brown, Greg W. Burazer, Brenda Ellen Carpenter, Cheryl Cochran, Pamela Carddock, Peggy Lynn Cruseberry, Ila Faye Earley, Delma Koontz, Joan S. Laws, Roy Dean Martin, Carolyn Medlin, Michael E. Patterson, Charles L. Quinley, Douglas S. Seely, Lu Perry Shackelford, Ronald Dean Whitworth, and Stephen Ray Bailey.

Eight of the women graduates will probably join their husbands on the road with Carolina Western. The local trucking firm hires husband-wife drivers.

Cheryl Janette Cochran, a former beautician from Monroe, Ga., is married to a CW truck driver who has been a trucker for more than 13 years. Mrs. Cochran says her parents will "babysit" for their four children, ages 15, 13, 11, and 9.

"I'm really excited about this job", said the pretty blonde, who says she is getting out of the beauty shop business because "I can make a lot more money". She admits the long hours of driving will be hard. Truckers who make long hauls to the West Coast and other areas are allowed to stop only for fuel and food. "When he's sleeping I'll be driving", said Cheryl, "but this is something I've always wanted to do." Mrs. Cochran will use te trucker's handle "Apache Ribbon". Her husband is "Apache Warrior".

Peggy Lynn Cruseberry, a petite brunette from Salt View, Va., is a registered nurse. She admits to being a little skeptical about changing her profession. The pretty young woman has had little trouble backing and driving the big tractor-trailers and managed the long distance driving to Louisiana very



Photo by Lib Stewart

TRUCKERS GRADUATE - Ila Faye Earley, left, one of 13 women and 9 men graduates of Carolina Western Express Company's in-company training program, presents a plaque to

CWC President David L. Bayne and his wife, Peggy, following graduation exercises Wednesday. The unique 320-hour course for truck drivers ended last week.



Photos by Lib Stewart

ADJUSTED WELL TO NEW COMMUNITY - Amira Diaz, seated, has adjusted well to life in Kings Mountain and her first trip away from her family. She is pictured with Leigh and Stephen Maaney at the Maaney home on Roxford Road. Stephen, who already has three sisters, didn't have a bit of problem adjusting to "another sister."