

Round Room in Castle Tower Home For U. A. Student Studying in France

By Shirley Acker

"Oh wouldn't that be a beautiful picture?" said Jacquie Bowman as she saw the French countryside, story-book chalets, and Lake Geneva. It was this statement that caused Jacquie to use eight rolls of film during four days.

This is just one of the many incidents 14 Upper Arlington students are facing as they study and travel in Eastern France. These students are: Shirley Acker, Jean Balsler, Jacquie Bowman, Pam Brown, Stella Brown, Carol Cavalaro, Gretchen Green, Suzanne Hardie, Linda Jennings, Beth Minor, Sherry Nantz, Nancy Trabue, John Williams, and Lyn Wunderlich.

Mrs. Margie Hale, French teacher at Upper Arlington High School, and her husband Mr. Douglas Hale are our chaperones. This is their first trip to Europe, so European life is new and different to them also.

We are studying the French language by attending classes and actually talking to the French people who live in the town of Evian. All the classes are in the French language and stress conversation.

Carol Cavalaro was trying to practice her French and help American relations by talking to some French teenagers, Carol was trapped in conversation. She learned more of the French language and she also learned not to say "Bon jour" to everyone.

All the girls are staying in a restored castle. We are on the third floor. When we had to carry our suitcases to our rooms the first day, we all wished we hadn't brought as much.

About six times a day we climb 46 stairs and 66 when we go down to the basement for our showers. It may sound like we have it rough, but we are enjoying life in a dorm.

Stella and Pam Brown and I are living in the tower of the castle. Our room is perfectly round. Our room adjoins the rooms of the other girls in our group.

Mr. and Mrs. Hale's room is in a Swiss chalet on campus, and John Williams stays in the boys' dorm.

We have 184 people on our campus in Evian. Attending the school Lycee Anna de Noailles are 146 girls and 25 boys. The odds aren't too good.

We have 19 counselors and faculty members.

Almost every day after classes and lunch we go on excursions. On these trips we see historical chateaus, beaches, churches, and museums. After the planned visits, we are free to shop and explore in the town.

Over the weekend we take longer trips. Saturday, July 8, we went to Chamonix, a famous resort area in the Alps. While we were there we saw the Mer de Glace. This is an ancient glacier. We walked down a mountain and into the glacier.

After our walk down, we decided to take the ski lift to the top of the mountain. John Williams wanted to walk up. He is sure footed, because when the ski lift got to the top of the mountain John was waiting for us.

Sunday we went to Geneva Switzerland. We saw the U.N. building and visited several churches in the "Old City." Everytime we passed a candy shop Nancy Trabue and Beth Minor would stop and sample the Swiss chocolate.

All of us are becoming experts on the French cuisine. John Williams knows all the different kinds of pastries. He has visited all the bakeries in town. He does have a favorite one that he visits daily. A cute French girl who speaks English is the clerk.

It sounds like we never eat at school. This isn't true. The food is good, different but good. I must admit that we are eating food we would never eat at home. We've had sardines, half cooked eggs, vegetables soaked in vinegar, and loaves and loaves and loaves of bread.

The different food and way of life we have been experiencing has been good for us. The past week has been hectic, but we are adjusting to being in Europe. As we are becoming used to our surroundings, we are also appreciating our parents, home, and community more.