

The Second Front Page



International volunteers discover a polite Newport, free of fences

By **KATHE MOLLOY**
Contributing Writer

NEWPORT — Friday afternoon the International Peace Work Camp participants began arriving in Newport, and by Sunday evening the last few had arrived, just in time for Newport's Concert on the Common. Relaxing together on the grass near the bandstand the 11 young men and women from Europe and Asia listened to the sounds of the musical group The Fiddleheads. Although tired and jet lagged (some of them having only two or three hours sleep in the last 36 hours) they graciously spent some of their downtime sharing their very first impressions of the United States.

Jose Luis, 25, from Barcelona, Spain, joined the work camp as a way to gain new experiences and learn about other countries. Newport is his second work camp trip and his first outside of his native Spain. Jose's impression of Newport was that, "The town is very peaceful and hospitable."

Lending a hand now and then, Jose stepped in as translator for his friend

and countryman, 21-year-old Jose Alberto from Murcia, Spain, who arrived in Concord at midnight Saturday. Alberto said he joined the work camp (his second) because, "It is a wonderful experience, a good opportunity to improve my English and I want to know the United States."

Koen Van Haver, 23, Ghent, Belgium, is a social worker in a children's cancer hospital.

He learned of the International Work Camp program through his sister's experiences.

Koen's initial impression of the United States? "The sociability, sociability of the people. In Belgium the shopkeepers might say 'hello.' They are shy, but here they say, 'How are you?' he said, nodding enthusiastically. "And there are no fences here. In Belgium your land is your land. Everyone has walls or rows of trees, but here it is open."

Kiyoto Ishihara, 22, from the small town of Himeji, Japan, came to Newport from San Francisco where she had been visiting friends. Kiyoto joined the work camp because, "I

wanted to see the United States and meet many people."

Monika Jezdikova, 25, and Michal Dezdik, 20, sister and brother from Prague in the Czech Republic, have both participated in six other work camps. Michal said his sister had talked him into joining and that they wanted to learn English and to see the United States. They are also planning to visit New York and an aunt in Philadelphia.

This is Anne-Gaelle Mellac's first work camp. Anne-Gaelle arrived from Paris Friday. Her husband will arrive Aug. 5. She wanted to visit the U.S. "not as a tourist with a camera but to share experiences with people." Her first impression of the U.S.? "There are no, uh, barriers around the property."

"Do you mean fences?"

"Yes, it is so different, and also I see many of your flags everywhere, on your houses, why is that?"

Vera Dmoukhailo, 19, from Tallinn, Estonia, is "glad to be in a small town. It is so beautiful. I was amazed by Boston and New York, so

many big cars in a rush."

Ferry Jansen, 22, from Hilversum, Holland said, "It is a big dream to come to America. When I came here and people in the shops said 'How are you?' I was amazed. At first I wondered, 'Why do you care?' but here everyone is friendly."

The campers will be working on the Newport Town Forest making new trails to the water tower, thinning the forest, constructing bridges, and replacing signs.

Newport citizens involved are Nancy Parssinen, chairperson for the Newport Conservation Commission; P.J. Lovely, Newport recreation director; and Charen Urban, coordinator for the meals and lodging for the campers. Newport Conservation Commission members Jack and June Liberman, Richard Brewer and Norris Learnard are also assisting in the work.

The work campers will also participate in a community playground-raising at Towle School Saturday, July 29.

The International Peace Work Camp

groups have been coming to Newport for 10 years. Their first job was the painting of Richards Free library. Each year they also have worked on the town forest.

The campers are staying at the Loon Lake Campground in Croydon.

All the campers look forward to sharing experiences, meeting people from other countries, and learning about American culture. Part of that experience will be a day-long outing

to a water park and a trip to either the White Mountains or to the ocean.

Through their presence over the next two weeks, Newport looks forward to renewed hiking trails, a new playground for Towle School, and a sense of community spirit. The kind of community spirit that crosses fences and continents and brings people from all over the world together to work for stronger global, as well as local, communities.

New museum plans opening

NEWPORT — Celebrations are being planned for Tuesday, Aug. 15, and Saturday, Aug. 19, to mark the grand opening of the Nettleton House on Central Street, which has been renovated to host a branch of the Manchester-based Sargent Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology.

More than 800 invitations have been sent out to the Aug. 15 "VIP" event, which will include a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m. and a program at 7 p.m. at which top state

officials have been invited to speak.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held, and historical exhibits will be on display.

The general public will be invited to visit the new museum Aug. 19.

More than \$220,000 in private donations went into the purchase and renovation of the Nettleton House, which was built in the 1830s.

The museum is named for the late Howard R. Sargent, an archaeologist from Sunapee who worked on a major dig in Claremont.