

French Guest Goes Home Impressed

After visiting Mooresville for a month, Sylvie Stroh of Denain, France began her journey back home Tuesday afternoon. While the Mooresville area lost a very special guest, it gained one heck of an ambassador.

Stroh, 18, visited with the B.K. Barringer family as part of a Rotary exchange. She arrived July 22 for her month-long visit. Tuesday morning, after a month filled with plenty of travel, new experiences and new foods, Stroh wasn't too excited about the trip home.

"I'm not ready to go home," she said. "I don't think I would ever be ready to go. I would like to live here. It is like paradise on Earth."

Except for the heavy French accent, Stroh sounded like a representative for the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce trying to convince tourists to visit the Tar Heel State.

"It is not what I expected at all," she continued. "It is so quiet and peaceful here. It's really more than beautiful. The lake, the trees, the crickets—everything is perfect."

Stroh, who will begin her second year of university study next month, came to Mooresville on the second half of a unique student exchange sponsored by Rotary International.

From June to July, the Barringer's 18-year-old daughter, Jenny visited Stroh and her family in France. When Jenny returned home, Stroh came with her.

"From the north of France to North Carolina, the lifestyles are not that different, according to Stroh, but her Mooresville home was not what she expected.

When she applied for the Rotary exchange, Stroh ruled out the United States because she thought she was too young to go so far away to a place that was so big.

"I was afraid to come to the United States," she said. "For people in my generation, it is a dream to visit the United States, but I was afraid because it is such a big country."

When no hosts were located in



Stroh Will Miss View From Barringers' Porch

Israel, Stroh was told there were openings in the United States. She decided to give it a try. Stroh, Jenny and the Barringers couldn't be happier.

"Jenny and I have become good friends," Stroh said. "We have done many things together and we plan to visit more in the future."

During Stroh's Mooresville visit, the Barringers, who live on Lake Norman off Templeton Road, have shown her more than just the local countryside. Her travel-filled month has included trips to Myrtle Beach, Disneyworld, Cape Canaveral and Washington, D.C.

In addition, she got to visit Old Salem and a place she had to see spread throughout the city. "All we hear about in France is the White

House and the Capitol, but everything is together and there is so much to see."

Stroh said she enjoyed the traveling, but she also enjoyed the more "simple" pleasures, like country ham, butterbeans, corn-on-the-cob and stewed okra. Putting her seven years of classroom English to use and learning some new slang terms to try on her friends in France was also a memorable part of the trip.

She took notes to remember that "shades" is a "modern term" sunglasses and that "blows your mind" is much more modern than groovy.

But the most important lesson Stroh learned during what she described as her "best vacation ever" is that she likes the United States and would like to come back in the future.

"I have seen so many new things here," she said. "What I have learned will help me try to find another direction for my life. I would like to use English also, perhaps come back to the United States."

The problem is while Stroh wants to speak English and come back to the United States to work or study, her friend Jenny wants to perfect French and return to France.

"I would really like to come back here," Stroh said. "I want to study here and Jenny wants to study in France."

"What we have to do is find an island in the middle of the ocean," Stroh added with a smile. "and we will speak English one month and French the next."

Stroh said she will have a hard time convincing her friends in Denain, a small town near the Belgium border, that small, quiet towns like Mooresville exist in the United States.

"They will probably say that it is not true, that it is not possible," Stroh said, "but I will tell them how nice it is."

Mooresville couldn't have a better ambassador.

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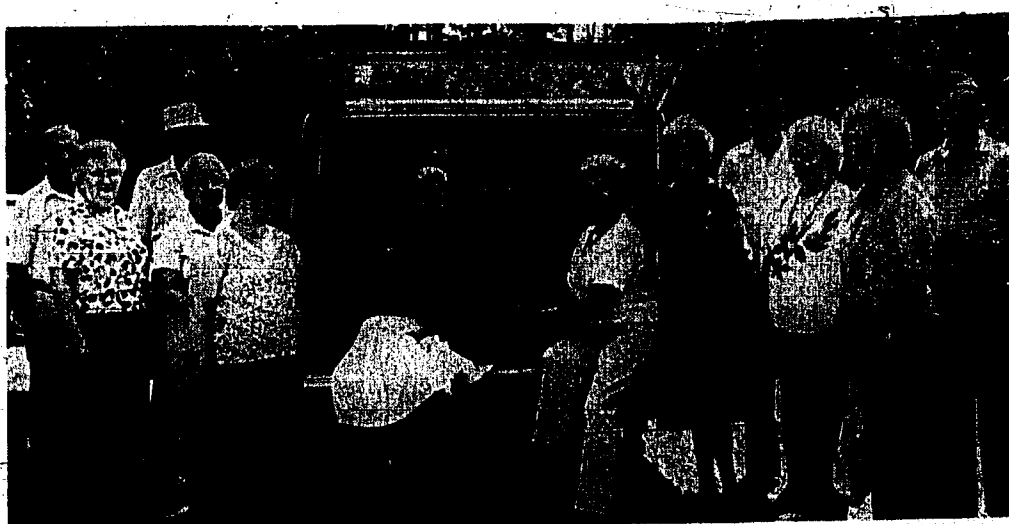
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Mooresville Watermelons On VA Medical Center Menu
Patients at the VA Medical Center in Salisbury once again rested easy this past weekend, as Mooresville-area watermelons were again presented to them courtesy of the Gresham-Baker American Legion Post 66 and Ladies Auxiliary. VFW members and volunteers gather around the loaded-down melon truck that departed from Mooresville to Salisbury Saturday afternoon. Those pitching in with the annual treat include, from left, Grace Shumake, Ladies Auxiliary secretary; Harris Wagner, VFW member; Lloyd Shumake, VFW member; Dessie Shiller, member of Ladies Auxiliary; Rhonda Shumake; Annie Bost, senior vice president of Ladies Auxiliary; Lizzie Wagoner, president of Ladies Auxiliary; Margie Alexander, VAFS chairman; Lloyd Bost, VFW member; Louise Barnette, Ladies Auxiliary Gold Star Mom; Irene Mayhew, Ladies Auxiliary member; and Clifton Alexander, VFW member.

Volunteers Help Make Schools Work

A desire to help and a genuine concern for children and schools are the qualifications of some 145,000 people in North Carolina who volunteer each year to assist teachers in helping students.

While state and local officials are pleased with the contributions made by community volunteers, much more could be done for students if more citizens offered help.

"A school volunteer can give a child the extra time he or she may need to feel special and can give teachers much-needed relief from extra duties that take time away from children," according to Jessie Rae Scott, consultant with the Division of School-Community Relations.

"As I travel the state visiting local school systems," Scott explained, "I see people of all ages and all abilities offering a helping hand in schools, but I also see needs that could be met if more of our citizens would get involved."

It is simple to become a school volunteer. Letting a principal, teacher or volunteer coordinator know of the interest, attending an orientation meeting, receiving an assignment and then showing up to

help are generally all that is needed to get involved.

Volunteer services are needed in schools to provide added help for teachers, to supplement and enrich the educational programs by sharing special talents or skills, to offer individual help to students who need one-on-one attention and to relieve teachers and other staff of non-teaching duties such as preparing bulletin boards.

Reading or telling stories, supervising small groups, sharing special talents, making instructional games, tutoring and assisting with art or music are just a few examples of how volunteers assist in schools.

Volunteers also work in the library, helping children select books, checking books in or out or showing filmstrips or movies. The school office also needs volunteers to help answer the telephone, assist with filing and typing or selling school supplies. School volunteers also assist in health clinics, cafeterias, playgrounds and with student clubs and field trips.

Scott says school volunteers increasingly are people who work but spend their lunch hours or evenings and weekends helping out in schools. Volunteers who can help out after

Devils Follow Flow In Fri. Scrimmage

Once they found it, Mooresville's Blue Devils danced right along with the flow.

And the steps performed by Senior High's varsity football team in its first official head-banging against an outside force last Friday evening were as pleasant to the eyes of head choreographer Steve Young.

The Blue Devils entertained East Rowan in a controlled scrimmage on the Mooresville Stadium field Friday evening, marking the hosts' first skirmish against players other than themselves.

It was the second and last scrimmage scheduled by the visiting Mustangs.

"Overall," revealed Young, rapidly approaching the opening of what is his fifth season at the Mooresville helm, "I was pleased with our performance. It took us a little while to get going, but that could have been because it was our first time out. Once we picked up our intensity, we played as well as we expected to on both sides of the football."

East Rowan brought both its varsity and junior varsity units to town in its final pre-season tune-up before opening its season this weekend.

As for Mooresville, it is without a playoff team this season, so it's

younger players received their playing time against the Mustangs.

"Our main purpose was to see to it that everybody got some playing time in," acknowledged Young. "We were looking to find out who could do what in game-type situations. We didn't plan anything fancy. We just stuck to basic football."

It marked the first of two pre-season workouts scheduled by the Blue Devils in less than a full week's time.

Last (Tuesday) evening, Mooresville concluded the two-scrimmage portion of its season by visiting Charlotte Providence Day.

"The Devils will then have more than a week to prepare themselves for their Sept. 4 opener against in-state rival Salisbury at Mt. Pleasant."

"Unlike in past years," remarked Young, "we've got a little more time to work on areas that need it. We'll probably give the kids Wednesday off, and then come back and really start concentrating on getting ready for that first game. We'll look at films of the scrimmages and see where we need to improve. Hopefully, we'll make some progress from one scrimmage to the next, and then make even more progress from then until that first

game."

As is the case with most scrimmages, the host team's first varsity defensive unit took to the field first against the opponent's first offensive squad.

"On offense," quipped Young, "we did better than we anticipated. We had very few missed assignments, and the kids showed some aggressiveness. Our first defense kept their first offense from scoring, and that was kind of a nice surprise. For our first time out, our defense couldn't have played much better."

After a set number of plays, the ball then changed possession, matching Mooresville's starting offense against the first defense of the Mustangs.

"On offense," stated Young, "we were a little timid at first. After we got into the flow of things, though, we were able to move the ball pretty well. We blocked well in the line, and our runners and receivers did a good job of executing."

The younger kids then took the stage, after which the respective varsity units once again hit the field, this time in actual game conditions with the offensive team attempting to maintain a drive and the defense trying to avoid it.

If there was one glaring disappointment, it was not so much in

more and then correct them."

Mooresville almost managed to at least survive the year as it played the role of both the leader and the led during its season opener on a night completed with a mid-field call on a late assignment ending.

The Devils grabbed the initial lead with an early first-period goal before Concord managed to knot the contest at one goal apiece just before the half ended.

The Spiders snared their first lead minutes into the second period before a Blue Devil goal midway the second 40-minute period once again provided a tie.

Concord then used the match's final net-finder with under a minute to tie to emerge a winner in their seasonal debut as well.

"We had a couple of penalty kicks late in the game," shrugged Stith, "but we couldn't capitalize on them. When they came on and scored with about 17 seconds left. It was a good

game, we just came up short."

Mark Lewis, the leading goal producer a year ago, provided the hosts with the early lead with the team's first score of the year in that first period.

After Concord had scored twice to overcome that early deficit, captain Jamie Gallimore fired home a winner to re-knot the decision at 2-2.

For the game, Mooresville attempted 17 shots on goal while holding the guests to eight kicks in the direction of returning keeper Jeff Lovett.

"Offensively," summed up Stith, on this season in place of Scott Bruton, "we moved the ball well. We kept some heat on them by controlling the ball at their end of the field. The only time we got in trouble was in transition."

"Defensively," he added, "we were strong at times, but we had those couple of breakdowns that

wound up costing us."

As a result, Mooresville slipped to 0-1 for the season as it prepares to resume regular-season play tonight (Wednesday) by traveling to Northwest Cabarrus.

That will be the first of three straight road games to the Devils, who will also visit Hickory and Providence Day during that span, before they return home Sept. 14 to entertain Charlotte Christian in a match that will wrap up the team's non-conference dates.

The Devils will then open their third season of Foothills Athletic Conference play Sept. 21 by hosting pre-season favorite South Iredell, whose Vikings are two-time defending conference champions. South Iredell is also the only team in the league Mooresville hasn't beaten at least once.

"Overall," added Stith, "I feel like we played a pretty decent game, considering it was our first one. I'm hoping for us to improve with every match we play so that by the time the conference season gets here, we'll be ready for it."

The Devils are putting their minds on the matter to make sure they will be.

After the game, the Devils' varsity football team will be in the gymnasium for a social gathering.

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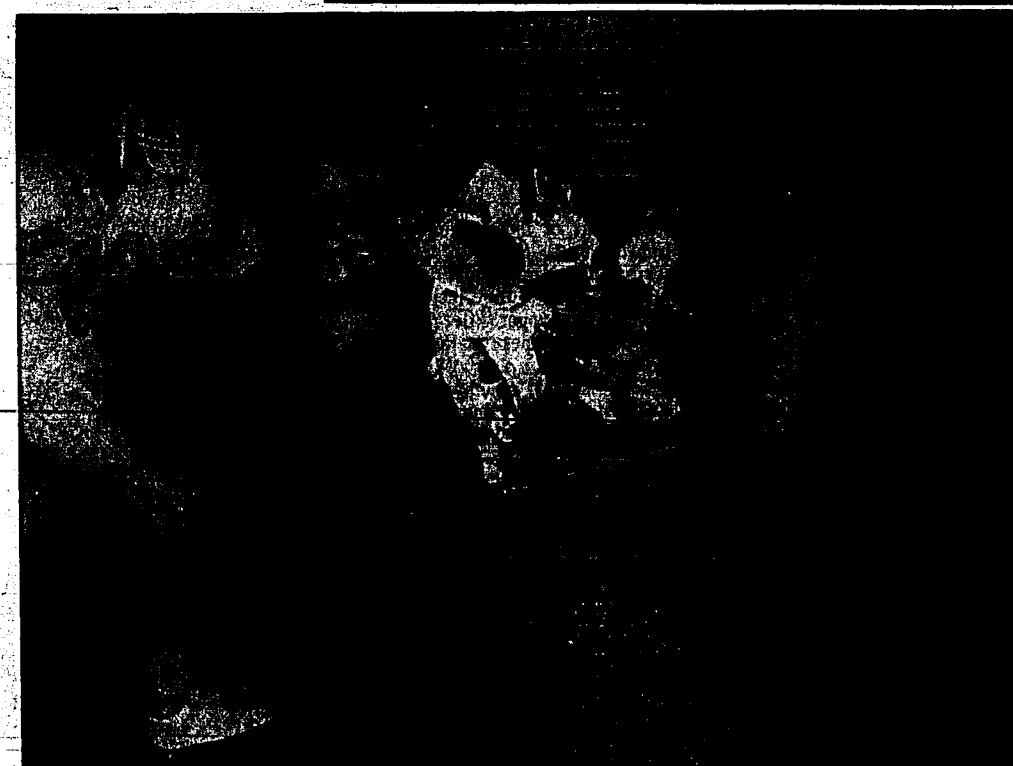
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Impressive Youngster Redfear Fends Off Tackler During Rush For Yardage

being first-year freshmen.

"Some of our older players came through with some good showings," Young added, "and we were

pleasantly impressed with some of our younger players, too. Overall, I feel it was as good a scrimmage as we could have had. We've still got

some room for improvement in a lot of places, but it showed us that we're definitely moving in the right direction."

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