

A Letter from Spain . . .

By Elaine Repogle

Greetings from Spain. I thought of writing "from Sunny Spain," but seeing as it's rained practically the whole time we've been in Madrid, I didn't think it was appropriate.

The Earlham group is doing well. Aside from classes (grammar, conversation, and art history), we've been travelling as a group every weekend to nearby cities. We recently spent four days in southern Spain--in Granada and Cordoba--and tried vainly to learn "baile sevillanas," a dance similar to Flamenco. We've come to the conclusion that it takes more than one evening to learn the dance.

We've been quite disciplined in speaking Spanish all the time, enough so that when we write home in English we have to laugh at the awkwardness of our grammar.

Madrid is a great city, with lots to do. So much, in fact, that we've all waited until the

last three weeks to think about our ethnographies.

Right now, Madrid is celebrating the festivals of its patron saint, San Isidro. Some of us are planning on going to hear the Claude Bolling Trio in concert, but for those who prefer different music, there's everything from Joe Cocker to Stephane Grapelli, who came to Earlham last term.

All of us are, by now, quite fond of drinking "cafe con leche" or chocolate. SAGA coffee is going to be a letdown after European coffee.

Fashion here is really interesting. Madrid youth dress up more than Earhamites and wear lots of black.

All of us are enjoying our time in Spain, but we do miss our friends in Earlham, Brown Bag concerts, and donut runs at midnight. Hope Sunsplash and finals go well for you all. Adios from the group.



Photo by Alysha Cohen

Participants in the Spain Program this term pose for the camera.

Miller Farm offers students a firsthand look at agricultural life

By Christopher Parker

Miller Farm and the associated Ag Hall are two of Earlham's most misunderstood features.

Miller Farm is a working farm with goats and chickens (they are not raised for meat) and a full garden. It functions as a student activity and for some people, an off-campus house.

According to Bob Kehoe, The Agriculture Program convener, "During the week people [living on Miller Farm] have chores like feeding the animals, getting eggs, composting, making bread, house cleaning, getting wood."

The farmhouse holds eight

people along with four cats (because of a past mice problem, Miller Farm is the only off-campus house that is officially allowed to have cats).

Ag Hall is the only Living/Learning hall on campus not devoted to Humanities. It is designed for people who are interested in the Ag Program. Ag Hall residents are supposed to participate in Saturday "farm days" (attendance is not always as regular as ideals would dictate).

These farm days, which are open to all Earlham students (and quite a number of non-Ag Hall and non-Miller Farm people do come) occur on Saturday mornings from around 10:30 to a

homemade lunch around 1:30.

Farm day activities consist of chores around the farm that range from big projects to routine maintenance that always has to be done.

The farm got its start relatively recently.

In 1973 Bill Coperthwaite, with the help of Tony Bing, built, as an exercise in self-sufficiency, a Mongolian Yurt (a portable building made of wood).

Building on the lessons involved in this project, students applied to the college for a garden.

This also grew, and in 1975 some of the same students involved applied to Earlham to

start a farm project. The farm was established in the fall of 1975 and interest grew still more.

In 1976 moves were made to start a living/learning agriculture academic program.

Things took off when a grant for \$163,000 was received from the W.K. Kellogg Corporation for the purpose of generating agriculture courses, and to establish Agriculture as an Earlham program.

During this time there was a lot of faculty involvement. Ag Hall was started in 1977 in Barrett basement, and an Ag office was established on the fourth floor of Dennis (where it still is today). A classroom was used on the fourth floor as well. Ten courses were modified for an agricultural emphasis, including Economic Politics, Ecological Biology and Food Ethics. The main living/learning agriculture class was taught until 1979.

The grant ended in 1981, and with it the academic side of Earlham Farm Project. The farm became just a student activity.

In 1982 Introduction to Agriculture was taught by Larry Fisher, and unsuccessful attempts to organize an Agricultural Ecology course were made.

After this, interest waned. According to Kehoe, "Things were just kind of coasting along. Miller Farm was shaky, and Ag Hall's future was in question. Only a couple of people were really interested."

Recently, according to Farm residents, things have been looking up. Interest has been better, and work has been done on cleaning up the activities and image of the farm.

Some of the recent projects have included re-starting the larger of two gardens, writing a constitution and opening up the Agriculture office in Dennis. When it was opened in the spring of 1986 it had not been used in five years. The office, which contains much information, and records, was "like a time capsule that was five years old," says Kehoe.

Miller Farm facilities are more extensive than just the house, which dates back to at least 1856, and was formerly occupied by the Miller family.

A smokehouse (not used) is the oldest building on the premises. Adjacent is a brick outhouse and frames for generating compost, which comes from other off campus houses.

A Green Coop is used as a first step for new plants, and as a residence for the farm's chickens. After the plants leave the green Coop they go to cold frames outside, which protect them from the wind, and then into the garden.

A large fading white barn is used mostly for storage by maintenance. Outside is a sorting area for the glass that Miller Farm collects for recycling.



Don't Be FRANTIC

We're Here To Help You With Your Summer Storage Problems!

Now thru July 1st

You can rent one month and get the second month

FREE!!

Various storage sizes available. Ranging from 5x5s to 20x20s

Manager on site 24 hours!

RICHMOND SELF STORAGE

535 Commerce Rd., Richmond

935-4377

David & Marie Greene, Managers

Hrs.:
Mon.-Sat. 8-5
Sun. 8-4