

# The IEP TIMES

Bringing the World to Eastern Mennonite University

June 15, 2006

Harrisonburg, VA 22802

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**June 10: Canoeing**

**June 15: Bach Festival**

**June 23-24: Camping at Highland Retreat**

**July 4: Independence Day**

**July 8: Washington DC Field Trip**

## Visiting the Frontier Culture Museum

I remember when I visited the Frontier Culture Museum, which is located in Staunton, Virginia. It was my first time to visit an interesting place like that in America.

The museum consists of a German farm, a Northern Ireland farm, an English farm and the Virginia farm. The long history of these farms covers the 1600s up to the 1800s. Historically, these farms demonstrate the early life of the immigrants who came from Europe as the result of religious war.

Specifically, the museum guide was an expert and an extrovert. She touched my mind when she started to explain about how the early immigrants used to dry and keep some animal meat. They had to hang those meats in the upper floor of the house. Then meat became dried slowly. Then they saved those dried meats to be used for the coming days. They had no refrigerators, so that was the only way they knew.

The Frontier Culture Museum gives us the real picture of who the Americans were! Their early technology was the basis of this modern technology we have today. The Frontier Culture Museum is an interesting historical place.

Emmanuel, Tanzania  
Advanced Level

Our field trip to the museum was a very interesting and good experience for me to know about different countries' cultures, lifestyles and farming systems. During the visit, we went to the English farm past a small pond where we saw different kinds of ducks. That English farm was from England in 1692, nearly 400 years old. In that home we met one lady who was also working with flax and I found out that all people

of every farm were working on the same crops in spring time, including wheat and different kinds of fruits, vegetables, and some herbs.

The lady told us that the English home was a wealthy people's home. We saw different kinds of beds there and homemade cheese. We saw some old furniture in the living room. We asked why the English people immigrated to America, and she told us some people came by their own choice and some came by force. Especially, one interesting thing at that time was that the second son was out of luck. In a family, the oldest son could get land but not the second son. That was one of the reasons the English people came to America. Particularly for this house, the first owners came here because they were kicked out by their landlords. Finally, on our way, out we visited the English garden where we saw so many interesting plants.

Jashoda, Nepal  
Advanced Level

Visiting The Frontier Culture Museum is not only about touching the life of Germans, British and Americans 300 years ago, but it gave me a chance to live a day in that time and feel the values, taste the history and have a real smell of the farms at that time. I have connected what I have seen with all that I had been told by my parents and grand-parents about how life was a hundred years ago when farmers used to make their food and clothes.

In addition to that, I could understand clearly during the two hour visit to the farms that family and social life were in better shape than they are today. People in communities during that time were cooperating with each other. There were roles for every one to play including women and children. Equality was in better situation than we have today among men and women where jobs and work were divided equally between men and women.

The visit helped me in finding an answer for a question I had. I understood that different communities did the same in solving their problems without communicating with each other and before the development of the communications technology. Farmers in Palestine, according to my grandfathers did the same things which farmers thousands of miles away did without exchanges and electronic

communications. What I have learned from visiting The Frontier Museum is that communities here did the same, proving that the different ethnic groups are equal when they have the same need and circumstances. What I have seen corresponded with what my grandfather told me about his and his father's life. All the different ethnic communities used to be more alike before enlarging the gaps among the communities during the recent century. I have learned a very good lesson during this visit. Besides feeling the life of the farmers, I could clearly feel the sense of the community and the values which they had.

I also could understand and appreciate the American experience of having different groups of immigrants from different areas around the world and yet create one of the most successful models in building equal and civil communities. The American experience of putting people together sticking with their roots and create one equal civilized country was the main lesson I have got during the 2 hours visit to the Frontier Culture Museum.

Hisham - Palestine  
Advanced Level

I've been to the Frontier Culture Museum before. That was summer of 2004 with the SELAM group. Thus, that was my second time to visit there. However, at that time we didn't have a good tour like this time, so I am sure I could learn more than before. I didn't care about why Europeans emigrated from Europe last time, but this time there were interesting stories such as the one about the ice age. There were mini ice ages in Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Therefore, Europeans could not plant crops very well. That's one of the big reasons for their immigration.

I think most European houses were influenced by each other because I thought those houses seemed similar to me. Also, kitchens dishes and clothes looked not so different to me. My favorite house was the German one. I liked the floor and upstairs. I remember I took a lot of pictures in this house last time.

That was a fun trip for me to go somewhere that I knew because I could notice new things the next time. I wish they had a Japanese house too.

Mariko, Japan  
Advanced Level

## **The Moral of the Story Is...**

### **The Swallow** (retold by Yo-jin)

A long time ago, there were two brothers who lived in a country village. The older brother's name was

Nol bu, and the younger brother's name was Heng bu. The older brother was rich, and the younger brother was very poor. His family was very hungry. His wife asked the younger brother, "Go ask for food from your older brother. His family has food."

Heng bu went to Nol bu's house. Heng bu said to Nol bu's wife, "Sister-in-law, our family needs food."

Nol bu's wife suddenly ran to the kitchen and came back with a rice scoop and smacked him in the face with it. The wife screamed, "Our family will not give you any food. Go back to your house."

Heng bu's family was not angry. They understood Nol bu's family. They had compassion.

Spring came, and many birds were flying. The swallows came back. One swallow got into Heng bu's house and was flying around. Suddenly it fell down into the courtyard. He and his wife saw the swallow and ran to the swallow. The swallow's legs were hurt so his family fixed its hurt legs.

Spring came back again. The swallow came back again. His family was very pleased because of the swallow's complete recovery. The swallow threw two seeds down to his family. The swallow flew far away. His family planted the two seeds.

The two seeds grew to be bigger than Heng bu. His family decided to cut the two seeds in half. As soon as they cut the seeds, they found treasure in the seeds. The swallow repaid Heng bu's family. Heng bu's family lived happily.

This true information came to Nol bu from Heng bu's family. He went back to his own house. He purposefully hurt the swallow's legs. Then he cured the swallow's hurt legs. The swallow flew with anger.

Nol bu's family waited for the spring to come back. The spring came back again. The swallow came back again. The swallow, as expected, threw down two seeds. His family also sowed the two seeds.

The two seeds also grew bigger than Nol bu. His family decided to cut the two seeds in half. His family began to saw at the two seeds. His family expected many treasures, but many scary goblins appeared. The goblins destroyed his house. This was the family's punishment.

*Moral: Nice people will have blessing/good fortune.  
Bad people will have punishment.*

Yo-jin, South Korea  
Intermediate Level

### **Snoopy the Dog** (retold by Susana)

Once upon a time in a neighborhood, there was a dog called Snoopy. Snoopy liked to chase anyone who walked in the street where he lived. Snoopy was a poor dog, so it was hard for him to find food to eat and

make friends. Snoopy envied the rich dogs. One day, Snoopy said, "I have to do something bad to call my owners' attention."

One day there was a little boy named Noe walking down the street with his sister, Susy, without worry.

The dog approached them and asked, "Where are you going little ones? Did you guys know that this street is mine only and nobody else walks here except me?"

Noe and Susy stepped back and they said to the dog, "Sorry cute little dog. We didn't want you to get upset about it."

The dog replied, "You're not sorry. You shouldn't walk on this street. Now you're going to pay for that." Snoopy jumped and bit Noe's thigh.

Noe grabbed his thigh and started screaming. "Oh my gosh, help! My thigh is bleeding."

The dog disappeared immediately, while Susy ran for help. She went to let her parents know about the incident with Noe. Noe's parents took him to the hospital to treat his wound.

The dog's owner visited Noe at the hospital and told him that he was sorry about the incident and Snoopy would be given away or kicked out. Snoopy knew that he would be punished, so he decided to abandon the house. Snoopy regretted what he had done. He went to another city, where he met new friends, had a better life style and learned to be friendlier.

One year later, Snoopy came back to the neighborhood to look for Noe. When Snoopy saw Noe, he said, "Don't be afraid. I won't hurt you and came to say 'sorry, I want you to forgive me'. I should never have done what I did to you. I really want you to forgive me because I will die soon and would like to be at peace."

Noe hugged the dog and told him, "I'll forgive you; just don't do it again."

Noe and Snoopy became friends. They went to the nearest part to play and have fun.

*Moral: Don't do something that you may regret later.*

Susana, Mexico  
Intermediate Level

### **King Midas** (retold by Jorge)

Once there was a king named Midas. King Midas was a very rich king. This king had everything he wanted: gold, silver, a big palace and a lot of servants. Also, he had a beautiful daughter named Eva who was 15 years old, and the king loved her a lot because when she was born the king's wife died.

One day, the king was walking around his palace when suddenly, he saw a short man walking slowly toward the king. This little man had long white hair and his moustache and beard were so large that it almost touched his small feet. He was wearing a big black hat and a dress of the same color.

"Who are you, and what are you doing near my palace?" asked the king in a loud voice.

"I am a wizard, and I am looking for the most beautiful flower in the world," said the little man.

Then the king said, "I have the most beautiful and the biggest rose of the world, and I'm not going to give you this flower. It is one of the most important things in my life."

"I will give you whatever you want if you could give me that flower," said the little wizard very softly.

"Whatever?" thought the king.

After that, the little man walked away and disappeared between the trees. During all of that day, the king was thinking about the words that the wizard had told to him. The next day, the king was walking in front of his palace when suddenly the wizard appeared again. "Are you ready to give me your flower?" the wizard asked.

"Yes, but I will give you this flower just if you can make everything I touch change into gold," said the king.

"Okay, everything you touch is going to change into gold," said the little wizard.

After that, the king was very happy, like a child with a new toy. Then he began to change everything into gold. He turned into gold his trees, his chair, his bed, his dog, and accidentally he turned his daughter into gold.

The next day, the king woke up early. He was angry and worried because he couldn't eat food and because he had changed his daughter into gold. At that moment, the king didn't want that magic thing any more, and went to find the wizard, but the wizard didn't appear until noon. Then the king told him that he didn't want that magic thing any more.

Then the wizard said, "I can't help you this time, but I know who can help you, and if you want to know who, you have to give me something."

"Okay, what do you want?" said the king desperately.

"I want your daughter," said the wizard.

"Oh no. I can't do that," said the king, very angry.

"Yes, I want to marry with your daughter," said the wizard.

"No, she is too young to marry with you," said the king.

Then the wizard said, "Think about it, and tomorrow I will come back to know your answer."

Then the next day, the king went to talk with the wise man.

"I will give you my daughter, but you have to wait until she is eighteen years old," said the king. "Now tell me who can help me," said the king again.

"Okay, go into the middle of the forest and find a river that is born in a stone. Then wash your hands there and the magic will disappear," said the wizard.

After those words, the king ran rapidly to the middle of the forest, looking everywhere for the river. At last he found the river, he washed his hands there, and he returned to his palace jumping and singing, very happy because the magic had disappeared.

Three years later, a very young man arrived at the king's palace. Then the king asked him who he was and what he wanted.

Then the man answered, "I am the wizard, and I am here to get married with your daughter."

"But you were short and you had long white hair," said the king.

"Yes, but I loved your daughter since she was born, and I changed all my body for this new body," said the wizard.

Three months later, the young couple got married and were living happily in the big palace.

*Moral: Be content with what you have.*

Jorge, Mexico  
Intermediate Level

### Childhood Story

When I was a child, I had two dogs. I loved them a lot. Every day before I left to the school, I gave a hug to each dog. When I came back, I did the same thing for a long time to make sure the dogs were ok. Then I was happy to take care of them because I loved them.

One day, a man walked close to my house and took one of the dogs, left to another town and nobody saw him. When I came back from the school, my mom said, "Juana, I didn't see one of the dogs. I don't know what's happening."

I asked the people who lived near to me, but nobody saw anyone.

"If you want to leave to some place to look, it's ok. I'm going with you because you are a little girl." My mom looked at me and asked, "Are you ok?"

I was quiet and didn't say anything. She knew I was very sad, but she couldn't do something for me and my dog, too.

We went to three towns and asked the people, and nobody knew anything about my dog, and nobody saw any person with the dog.

My mom told me, "Let's go to the police. Maybe they could help us."

And I said, "It's okay."

We went to the police and told the officer what was happening. He said, "I'll help you, but I need your help too. When did this incident happen?"

My mother said, "I was making tortillas and suddenly didn't see her dog anymore."

The police said, "We will do research into it, and I guarantee in this case, there will be a punishment."

The other dog became very sick. He was so weak that he couldn't walk. Also, he couldn't eat anything. When I saw my dog, I walked forward and gave him a hug. I was crying, and I thought, "When I'm bigger, I will get one dog to make sure," because when this happened I was a child and couldn't think much and didn't want to take care of. I feel sad. Also, I want to move back the time because I felt guilty about what happened, but now I have an experience. When I was a child I was neglectful.

A couple days later, someone told me they saw the person who took my dog. Then he said this man is going to kill my dog by hanging. What was I to do? Nothing, only pray to God, 'Touch the heart so the people don't do that.'

I don't understand why people do things like that. I am still alone, sad, and broken-hearted, but I pray to God some day I will get one dog and never have this happen again.

*Moral: Learn how to keep your dog more carefully.*

Juana, Guatemala  
Intermediate Level

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