

Scholarships

September 29, 1971

Dear Gen. Neely:

I have talked to my tutor at the University and it looks as though I will be able to take almost the exact engineering courses I needed at Texas.

I am expecting my Rotary counselor today or tomorrow to lend me some assistance in arranging for University fees, books, board, room and other necessary essentials to get this college year moving forward. My counselor lives in Blaydon, which is some five or six miles from here.

Last weekend was my first real experience with Rotary and it was great. The Link group, composed of people living in England who have won Rotary grants in the past, hosted all the students in the British Isles that were awarded scholarships for 1971-72. The town of Lancaster, where we stayed, only has 50,000 people, and the Rotary Club only about 30 to 40 active members, so many of the 30 arriving students were housed in the University of Lancaster dorms; the rest in local Rotarian's homes. We were treated to several receptions and luncheons; one at the Grange-over-Sands Club; another by the Lancaster Club; another by the Club of Bowness-on-Windermere in the Lakes District (through which we were given a guided bus tour).

Obviously, great pains were taken by Margaret Selby, Link secretary, and by Jack Armitage, the Rotary Foundation Committee Chairman of the Lancaster Club. This must have taken months to coordinate, and the benefits I reaped from meeting these students and local Rotarians are immeasurable. Among those I met were five Texans and Jack Moore, the other awardee from our District. I plan to see him in Nottingham soon. In addition, there will also be a Link Christmas party in London which I hope to attend. All in all, that was quite a weekend, and it helped me feel much more at ease here.

I've probably gained a few pounds from English food. Between you and me, I'd sell my soul at this point for a real American hamburger. I have gotten accustomed to the use of English money (after a taxi driver cheated me out of about \$10 at the London Airport), and to drinking a lot of tea (they seem to think everyone drinks coffee in the U.S.), and to being looked at as an oddity whenever I open my mouth to reveal my decidedly un-English accent. But for now, things are settling down and getting back into a routine.

I look forward to hearing from you and from any of the members who might feel inclined to write. Please give my best wishes and sincerest thanks to everyone there.

Sincerely,

Steven Duff
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