

Pedro Garza Trys International Politics As Summer Visitor To South America

A Texas A&M senior who aspires to work for the U. S. State Department in Latin America got a taste of international politics as a summer visitor to Chile.

Pedro Garza, 22-year-old government major from Santa Rosa, spent nine weeks in Chile as A&M's first winner of a \$950 John F. Kennedy Scholarship.

Also aiding his participation as an "experimenter in international living" was a \$150 scholarship provided by the A&M Memorial Student Center Travel Committee.

Garza jetted to La Serena, 300 miles north of Chile's capital city of Santiago, where he visited a month with a middle-class family and spent the rest of the time touring the countryside.

Political conversations with Chileans kept Garza fired up for democracy. All communist parties are legal in Chile and university students lean to the left, Garza discovered. And although students attacked U. S. foreign policy in Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic, most said they would like to study in the United

States if the opportunity should arise.

During two weeks in Santiago, Garza visited the national congress where he watched the chamber executives and senate in action.

It was the respect young Chileans show for parents that impressed Garza. "Their family unity is great," he said. "Children are always asking their mother if they can do something for her," he added.

The trip was not without humor and embarrassment.

One "experimenter" a girl from New York who did not understand Spanish too well, was asked by Chileans if she had a pleasant nap.

"Oh, yes," she smiled. "I just love meatballs."

Garza found soccer to be the most popular sport in Chile.

"I watched four games," he recalled. "Those people take the game seriously. A referee was hit by a drink bottle during one game. Another game was delayed 15 minutes by fans throwing oranges and apples at the officials."

"People are rabid about soccer," Garza continued. "When Chile was playing in the world championships in England, every Chilean listened on radio. And when Chile lost, they blamed the loss on the coach."

Time stands still in Chile. At least the girls seem not to notice

it. Garza was amused by their disregard for schedules.

"If a party is set for 8 o'clock, nobody gets there on time," he said. "I went to a party on time once and nobody showed up for two hours. Another time, a friend and I had dates. We went to the girls' house and talked for two hours. Then the girls had to eat supper. We got to an 8 o'clock party at 11:30, but nobody seemed to mind."

Garza's trip home from Miami made him appreciate the United States more than ever.

"I hitch-hiked 1,600 miles in 51 hours with only two hours sleep," he said. "Chile was beautiful, but I saw many places between Florida and Texas just as pretty."



FLORICULTURE AWARDS MADE

Three scholarships totaling \$1,200 have been awarded to Texas A&M University floriculture majors. Left to right, Dr. M. E. Bloodworth, head of the Soil and Crop Sciences Department, who made the presentations; Richard Kimmins of Amarillo, \$250 from the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas; Mrs.

Evelyn Lowery of Galveston, \$450, and William Pehl of Fredericksburg, \$500, both awards from the F. W. Hensel Scholarship; and A. F. DeWorth of the Floriculture Section who selected the students. The Hensel Scholarships were made available by the Student Floral Concession.

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