



A Glimpse of the Great American Dream

Impressed by the American way of life after a three week tour of California's West Coast, Runcorn youngsters Roger Woodhead and David and Richard Bamber brought back some souvenirs to remind them of the trip.

The boys were accompanied on the journey by David and Richards parents, Mr and Mrs Tony Bamber of 59 York Street. Also in the party was their granny Mrs M Shallcross of 46 Poolside Road. The trip was Mrs Shallcross's first holiday abroad.

After touching down in San Francisco airport the family rented a caravan and jaguar and set off on a 2,000 mile trek in 80 degrees of sunshine. They visited Santa Barbara Los Angeles, Disneyland San Diego and the state capital Sacramento.

But one of the most impressive parts of the tour was a short stop with American friends at a ranch house buried in the pine forests at the foot of the rocky mountains said Mrs Bamber.

After travelling south, the family visited Mexico before returning to San Francisco, 'the children really loved Disneyland and Roger, particularly wants to go again.' Remarked Mrs Bamber, Roger aged 12 is cousin to David and Richard.

CHEAPER

'We'd heard so much about the United States and felt that it was worth visiting' said Mrs Bamber. 'We certainly were not disappointed. Despite what a lot of people here are led to believe a lot of things in America are much cheaper than in England and once you've spent the flight money, you save on things like food and petrol.'

'The quality of the food and restaurants is far better than over here. We were amazed at the service and particularly the courtesy we met everywhere we went.'

'Petrol is half as cheap as it is in Britain but nevertheless, many Americans are changing to smaller cars to save fuel' she commented, breaking the myth that all Americans drive huge vehicles.

SKATEBOARDS

'We bought only £10 worth of souvenirs back from the trip because you're only allowed that amount' she said 'But we found that suede and leather goods in Mexico were very cheap so we bought a lot for our money. The boys bought baseball bats, footballs and skateboards but the bas will probably be just going up on the walls because there's nowhere around here they can take the game up.'

Mrs Bamber remarked that she was very careful to protect her skin from the sun particularly in Southern California. 'We all have very fair skins in the family.' She said 'So we bought cream to protect ourselves. Most American woman, once they are about 25 seem to give up sunbathing and cover themselves with cream.