

## Ursula Schletter's column *Hutterites* continued from page 6

showed Hutterites in their daily tasks. They also showed pictures of some of the homes.

At age 15, the young ladies are required to get a sewing machine. They have to learn how to sew clothes and other things. The young women seem to enjoy crafts more than the men. The women also like to crochet, do needle point, rug making, and sewing.

After the slide show, people were asking Marie all kinds of questions which she answered. They welcomed any and all questions.

We also went to the bakery where some of us bought some bread and jam.

Then back to the bus where Teresa took us out to the potato shed, which was too far to walk. She said that they will fill the shed to the ceiling with potatoes.

The history of the Hutterites is quite interesting. Each colony serves between 60 to 160 people. Each person has a job to do from children to adults. They get up at 4:30 in the morning and work until 8 at night.

The Hutterites live off the land. Our tour guide said that they butcher their own chickens and ducks. They also raise their own cattle for milk and butter, and they have cattle for beef.

Most of the colonies are sustained through agriculture. Most colonies are crop producers. Some also raise livestock.

The children have a few different classrooms for study. They have classes first thing in the morning and again in the evening and any time during the day when they are not doing chores.

The children also love to play sports. They enjoy volleyball, as well as other sports, crafts, reading and visiting other colonies in their

leisure time.

The Hutterites also spend leisure time choral singing at old folks homes, charity bazaars, hospitals or just on their own.

Some also play around with musical instruments in their spare time. They don't use musical instruments in the church. But if someone wants to learn how to play one, then it is allowed in the homes.

Even though they have no televisions or video players, there is no lack of anything to do.

Although one of the classrooms we visited does have a TV/VCR. However, they only use it on special occasions such as a birthday for a child. They select good clean movies for the children.

They live a simple life with no debt. They get bills paid off by the first of the month and mostly use cash for everything. Some do use credit cards.

They have a strong faith in God, and are very hospitable. They also visit other colonies and get to know each other.

They encourage young people of marrying age to go visit other colonies since most people in the colonies are related to each other in one way or another, and because they don't allow first cousin marriages.

Well this is the end of part two. There is so much more to mention about the Hutterites.

However, I will wait until the next installment to speak a little more about them and continue on to our next tour stop, the Grand Coulee Dam.

**Look for part three of Ursula's trip to Eastern Washington in the January 2009 issue of *DDD*Details.**