World's Fair Offered Preview of the Future

By Donald Heffner, Macungie, Pennsylvania

AS A SHY 14-year-old living in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, in 1940, jitterbugging was not for me. I spent my summer doing chores on my grandfather's farm and working in the fields.

But new and exciting things were being talked about at my school—the New York World's Fair was open, and the school was running a 1-day excursion there.

It included a train ride, ferry ride and even a bus ride through New York's Chinatown. It was the chance of a lifetime, and I convinced my folks to let me go.

When we arrived, the fair was more than I could have dreamed. There were moving steps that took us into the Perisphere, one of the fair's main structures. When we sat down around the perimeter, we saw the world of tomorrow below us.

Inside the Ford building, there were future Ford car models on a track, and we rode in one. In another building, human-made lightning was shown; it was a bit scary.

In the General Motors building, we sat in moving cubicles, viewing a city of the future with cars, trains and airplanes as though we were in an airplane above them all.

The General Electric building had a theater with pie-shaped stage segments that moved. As you viewed a segment, it showed the inside of a house from days gone by through the future and how our appliances had progressed over the decades.

We also saw houses and people from other lands, as well as our

first television.

It was a day to remember.