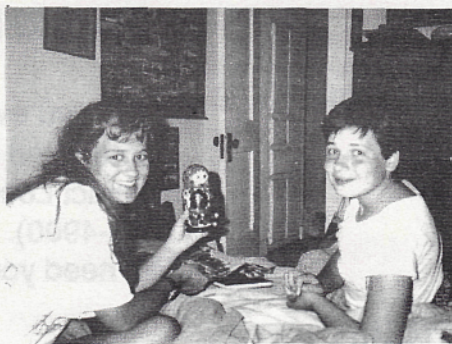




(Left) **SASHA BURGROVA** of Moscow and **DIANA TAYLOR** Visit Downtown Houston. (Right) **DIANA** receives a wooden peasant doll from Soviet Teenager, **SASHA BURGROVA**.



FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

District 589 conducted the first Rotary sponsored short-term, home-to-home youth exchange with the Soviet Union this summer by hosting three teenagers from Moscow and sending two American teenagers to stay in the U.S.S.R. The district also hosted three young people from Baku, a large city on the Caspian Sea in the Soviet Union.

Sasha Burgrova is a 15-year-old from Moscow who lives on the 15th floor of a large, boxy, residential building. Her family consists of her parents and her three year-old brother in a two-bedroom apartment.

Sasha's father is on an important committee of the communist party, and manages a taxi service as well as owns a souvenir shop. The three-room shop is located on the ground floor of one of those tall buildings and contains a variety of clothing, jewelry, and knick knacks. He is said to be well off, and helped pay the travel expenses for Sasha, her good friend, and neighbor Andrey Progonov, and a nephew, Misha Krasnoselskii.

Sasha stayed in the home of Dr. David Taylor of Space Center Rotary. She was matched with 15-year-old Dea Taylor. While here, she spent a week in Galveston, attended various events around Houston, and participated in quite a number of social and entertainment activities.

Sasha was shy, spoke very little due to her limited English, but was bright and observant and readily understood her day-to-day experiences. Using a dictionary, she communicated increasingly while here.

And yet, to find out how she felt about her trip to the United States, it was decided she would write it down. Here's Sasha's report:

What I Like and What I don't Like In America

I saw many interesting and many not so interesting things here. Some things I liked, and some things I did not. I very much liked active games like bowling and others, but museums and the theater I didn't like at all. I liked Galveston. The ocean was pretty, but the water was too salty. It was interesting to tour the ship and submarine. Downtown Houston was very nice. It is possible to be impressed with the quantity of goods available here, but I had heard much about this and seen reports on TV so I wasn't surprised. I was surprised that everyone (from little people to old people) seemed to be very happy, always smiling. Also, I was impressed everyone seems to trust and believe each other. Surprisingly all shops, cafes, and restaurants work 24 hours without breaks for lunch or weekends off. I was also surprised that people here love Russians. In general, I liked it here very much, but couldn't adjust to the climate - too hot! So, I was pleased with everything.

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