

Aptos students take a trip to Washington

By GUY LASNIER

Nothing beats seeing the real thing, a dozen students at Aptos Junior High School said last week.

The 12 eighth-graders got together to recall their recent six-day visit to Washington D.C. Thirteen students in all from Aptos Junior High took part in the trip conducted by Educational Field Studies, Inc.

Teacher Mary Reed accompanied the group for a whirlwind tour of the nation's capital. They ate breakfast at the Supreme Court building, where they saw the justices having their breakfast. Rep. Leon Panetta showed them around the Capitol Building, where they "saw the guy with the white hair (Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill)," Brian McElroy

said.

They visited Arlington National Cemetery and Mt. Vernon in Virginia and spent a whole day at the Smithsonian Museum.

"We see things on the news all the time and now I know more about them," Stacy Todd said.

The trip was open to 15 eighth grade students and cost \$619. Parents paid for most of it but at least one student, Geoff Saccone, is working off the cost. And Stacy Todd said she did a lot of babysitting to pay her way.

Favorite sites were the Voice of America, where broadcasts in 42 languages are delivered daily; the F.B.I. building, where the students saw a demonstration of machine guns; and the Kennedy

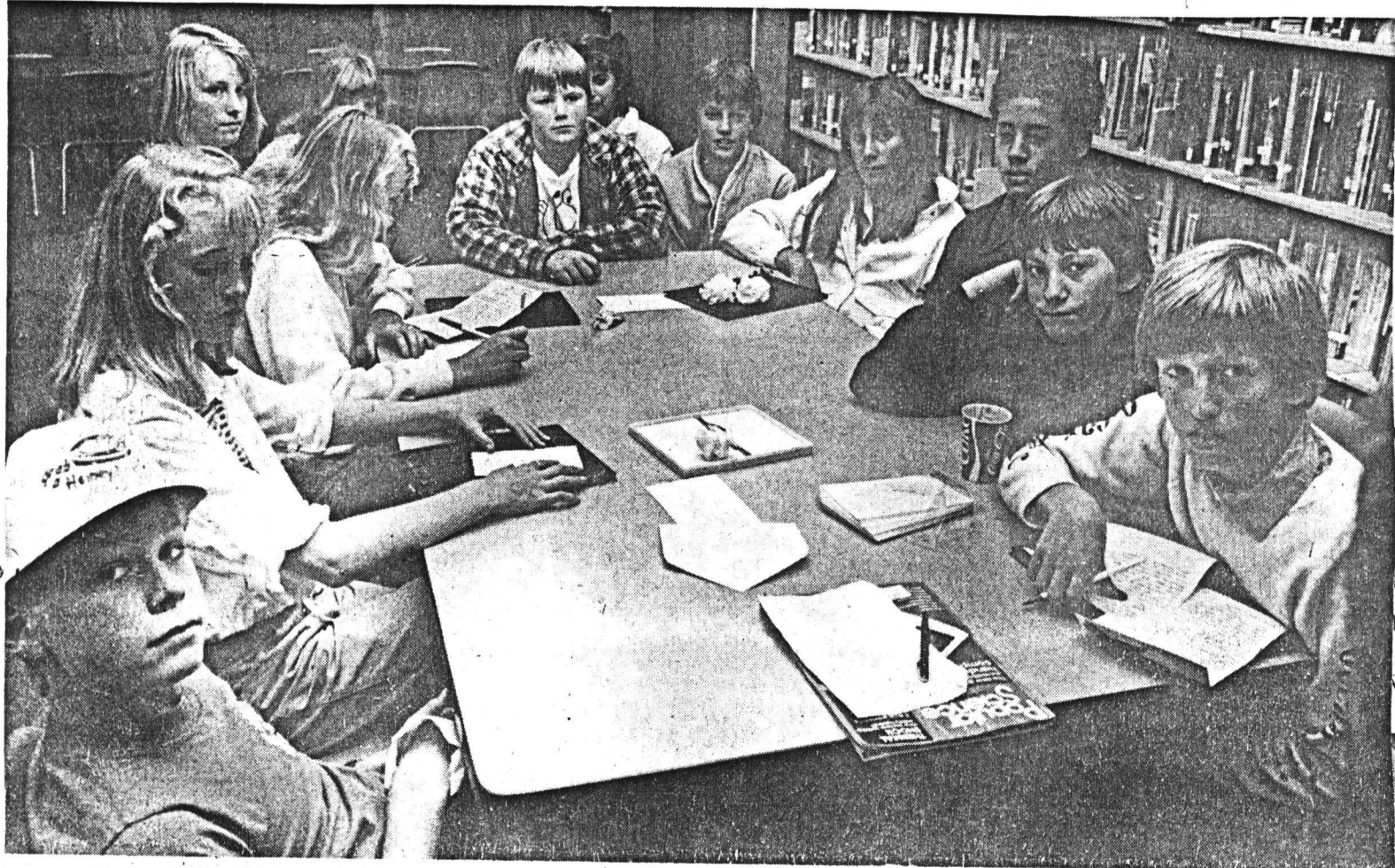
graves at Arlington National Cemetery.

Maria Loggins liked the Smithsonian the best. Bridget Driscoll had no favorite, she liked everything, she said.

The weather and the White House did not rate as well as some of the other sites. The weather was typical Washington summer, hot, humid, and sticky. The White House tour was too quick, with no explanation and they had to wait in a five-block line for 2½ hours, the students said.

They did manage to see President Reagan from afar as he took off in a helicopter.

And, finally, in the inimitable words of the junior high schoolers, the Library of Congress and its millions of books was "awesome."



These are the 12 students who took the trip to Washington, D.C.

Photo by Sam Vestal