

Danville Diary

By Dale Foster

THE "TRY AGAIN" approach has not been abandoned by a team of adventurers including five Tucson, Ariz., men and a Danville area resident who scrapped a recent mountain-climbing expedition in Mexico because of a blizzard.

Kevin Green of Fithian, Ill., Route 2 spends the winters photographing Arizona, the desert Southwest and Mexico. He and his father operate a 500-acre cattle, corn and soybean farm near Oakwood.

In January, he was part of a group with hopes of climbing to the summit of Mount Orizaba, which at 18,700 feet is the third highest peak in North America. It is southeast of Mexico City and west of Veracruz, one of a string of volcanic peaks along the Mexican Plateau.

They had hoped to reach the top and make a record-setting dive into a lake in a crater near the summit. It would have been the highest-altitude dive on record.

The six had established a camp at 1,000 feet up the glacier — 16,500 feet above sea level — when it be-

gan snowing so hard — piling up two feet in 24 hours — that they had to stop. The next morning, the temperature was below zero and the wind was blowing more than 40 mph, making it a "whiteout."

They abandoned the effort because they feared they would be unable to get a vehicle they had left at a lower elevation off the mountain. They had lugged the special gear the dive would require.

The group is planning another try. Another climb will be made later this month but that expedition will not include a dive.

Green, salutatorian and Sons of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award-winner at Oakwood High School in 1979, says slides and information about the latest expedition and some of his others will be available to schools, clubs and organizations in the Danville area upon request. His winter address is 4069 N. Tyndall, Tucson, Ariz. 85719. At the farm, he can be reached by telephoning 354-4030.