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Ida's Notebook



Ida Risser

During the recent hot spell, Allen and I spent a few days in the New England states. Someone asked me if it was cold there. No, it was 95 degrees the same as other places in our country. We couldn't seem to quench our thirst as we drove around the countryside with its stone fences and large white steepled churches. I've never really liked soft drinks and we had emptied our thermos of iced mint tea, which we'd brought

from home, so we stopped at an Aryshire farm dairy bar near Bennington, Vt. and bought several quarts of milk. Umm, it never tasted so good. We also saw their eight cow carousel milking parlor that revolved and gave the cows a merry-go-round ride.

A sign that brought a smile to my face was one in the dairy barn which warned visitors not "to walk on the girls' table." The stanchion barn housed 70 cows and was used primarily to feed them three times a day. Their brochure told us that each animal consumes 25 pounds of alfalfa haylage, 15 pounds of ground ear corn, 40 pounds of corn silage, and 25 gallons of water per day...plus all the grass it can eat.

We stopped at many scenic areas and I was amazed to find red raspberries growing wild up there. They were quite different from our red wineberries. Bushkill Falls were beautiful and we were surprised to see a dairy farmer from our own county there, too, with his family. We visited a museum in Danbury, Conn., but the highlight of the trip might well have been the morning we spent at Sturbridge Village in Mass.

This village re-created an early 1800's town that was agricultural. It showed the kind of life lived by having craftsmen actually performing their trades. We saw a copper shop, tinsmith and blacksmith, grist mill and sawmill, plus printing shop and cabinet shop. The houses dating from 1704 to 1796 were furnished according to the person who lived in them, be he farmer or parson. It was truly quite educational.

**29th ANNUAL
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REUNION**
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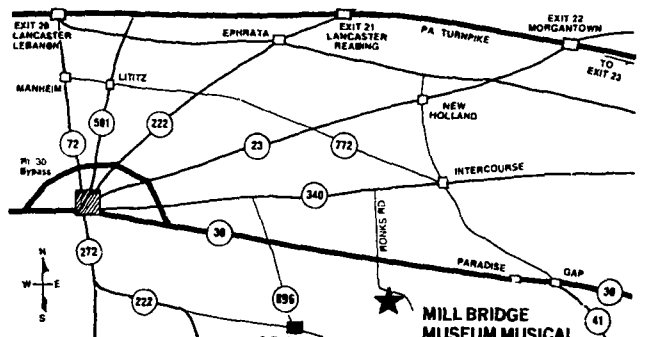
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