

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Whenever I see an empty farmhouse, it always arouses unpleasant thoughts in my mind. Why does it always have to be so dilapidated? Where are the former oc-

cupants now? How can it be returned to a useful purpose?

Back in the 1940's, I remember being impressed by the great number of empty houses in Ohio and Indiana. Up to that point I hadn't noticed many in Lancaster County. Although, I'll have to admit that a large brick one stood empty for 15 years on my parents farm. It was one of those casualties of combining two farms and only needing one house.

For a number of years, renters used the dwelling but it gradually needed more

and more-repairs. Finally it was used by "summer people", as it stood along the Conestoga and swimming, boating and fishing were conveniently nearby. When it stood unoccupied, the living room was used to strip tobacco and I'm amazed that the boards didn't warp from the dampness.

The reason that I know and care is because this same room is now my living room. I'm told that tramps, who walked the roads all summer, often camped in front of our corner fireplace on cool and rainy nights.

But now there is a great

interest in restoring homes that are almost 200 years old. Ours was not in need of restoring! No one had ever changed it very much from its original design during all those years, although we can see where a bake oven was installed in the one wall of our present dining room. Later this was replaced by a large walk-in stone fireplace and bake oven, now part of our kitchen.

When we moved here we only needed to add electricity, heat and water.



Saturday, April 26

Lancaster Co. Society 26 will entertain Society 4 at 12 p.m.

Lancaster Co. Society 5 will meet at the home of Anna Ruth Ebersole. Amos Herr will speak on his Alaskan Tour.

Lancaster Co. Society 12 will meet at the home of Marian Glick. The group will hold a spelling bee.

Monday, April 28

Berks Co. Society 5 will meet at the home of Grace Carvelle for a program on by-laws and safety.

Thursday, May 1

Spring Rally held at the York Fairgrounds.

Saturday, May 3

Lancaster Co. Society 6 will entertain Society 28 at 1:30 p.m. at the Elizabethtown Church of God.

Lancaster Co. Society 27 will hold a brunch and tour.

Lancaster Co. Society 10 will meet at the home of Mary Delp. Bruce Ryder will be the speaker.

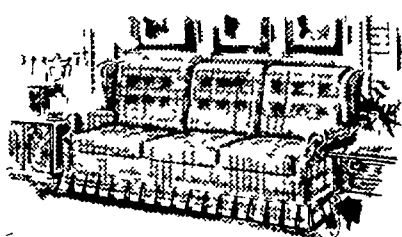
Now when I see the remains of a house, set back from the road, with only a few walls remaining, a lilac bush or two and a few trees; I feel sad as I think of what could have been.

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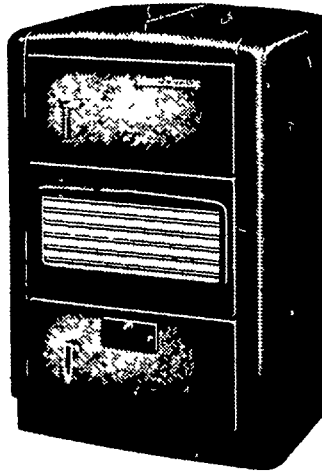
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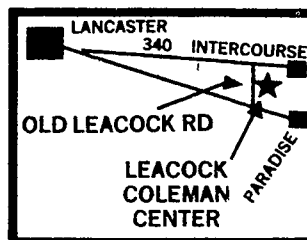


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