

## Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



I've been thinking about how much the art of visiting has changed. After reading some letters written in 1865 and getting a peep into life at that time, I am struck by the importance placed on visiting.

The spelling is awful in some letters but they still express the people's thoughts. I'll try to repeat an

excerpt from one letter: "let you no that i was at sunday down to adam brown but he was not at home further ileet you no that pap and mother took a slay write last sunday a week up to uncle John buch to ephrata tuesday i and mother and pap were up at the gravel hill grantmother in the slay further ileet you no we have a

bad job we must pick stones and if you would like to help you may come up."

Another letter says: "Mother is sick in bed all week and wish you to com down on Sunday to hour place. We made 106 pounds of butter while ma was gone at 25 cent A pound and we also dried beans and corn and elderberries About half A bushel each." (I can hardly imagine how much work that must have been).

Even in the early years of my marriage, we often dropped in unannounced on friends and relatives with our children and they felt free to do the same at our home. When children are not taken on family visits, they definitely lose a lot by not hearing stories and customs handed down from generation to generation. Sometimes it was inconvenient as we were in dirty clothes and working or even taking a basin bath in the kitchen as we had no bathroom. But now we can laugh about those experiences.

My point is that now one is expected to phone ahead of time to make a visit. I've even heard people say that when children leave home they should only come back when they are invited! I certainly don't feel that way. We no longer need to plan days in advance for a slow trip by buggy but instead can hop in a car and be there in minutes. So let's bring back the joy of dropping in to visit folks-and not only those to whom we feel socially obligated.

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# Homestead Notes

(Continued from Page C2)

area, but she and Yvonne live in different school districts. During her reign, Nadine did radio spots, a television interview, appeared at numerous banquets and fairs and went into many elementary schools with her children's program promoting milk. For the first few weeks this summer, Nadine and Yvonne will be traveling together to give Yvonne a chance to learn what it is all about.

Yvonne looks forward to the many experiences coming her way. She has asked to be excused from work for special appearances and has been granted time off. She added with a twinkle in her eye, "The bank officials told me Friday before the pageant that if I won, they would let me pass out glasses of milk right there in the bank!"

During the summer, Yvonne will be working a full week's schedule rather than part time at the bank. She says she wants to learn as much as she can about the industry she is going to represent and will spend her spare time reading up on marketing and promoting milk.

She has a solid background in the dairy

industry from having taken an active part in the family's farm work. Her parents farm 135 acres on the farm that totals 185 acres where they live and rent an additional 18 acres from a neighbor. Last year the family culled out several dozen animals and in May this Spring purchased a 46 cow herd from New York State. The mixed herd, mostly grade Holsteins, is milked in a stanchion barn in two shifts with the help of a pipeline.

The main crops are corn and hay with first cutting going into the silo and other cutting being baled. The King's raise their own young stock and will be having increasing numbers of animals recorded on the DHIA test as the newly purchased cows become fresh. Yvonne explained what they purchased the new cows with a number of them dry so that they would be accustomed to the place and facilities before being milked there.

Yvonne said she wants to have a good time while she is the Chester County Dairy Princess and "Do as much as I can. I look forward to the training sessions on the state level and to meeting people," she added.



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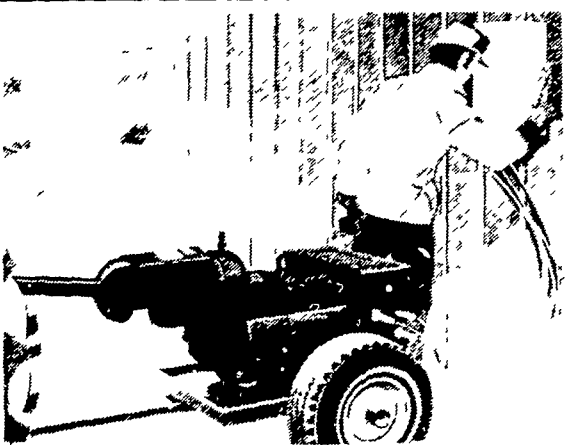
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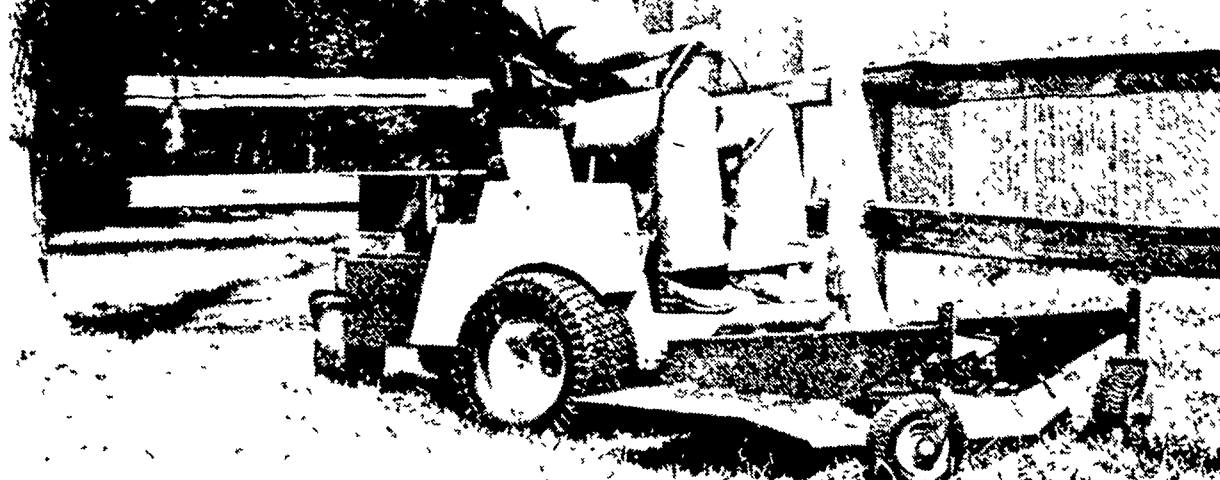
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