

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



The other day I was looking over some old packs of postcards that were stored away in a chest. They cover the early decades of this century. It is very interesting to see how life has changed in the last fifty years.

Some of these cards show parks, buildings and methods of transportation that no longer exist. There were not as many pictures in newspapers in the early 1900's as there are now and therefore cards were brought to see the results of

floods, accidents and fires. One card was printed which showed the destruction by fire of Reilly Bros. & Raub in Lancaster in 1910. As fire equipment was horse drawn, some had to be brought by train from Columbia on flat cars to fight the fire.

Many of my postcards were sent on birthdays, Valentine and Christmas. Some were printed in Germany and are beautiful as they still have fancy sparkles sprinkled on them. Often they contain messages about a meeting or a Sunday visit. Telephones were few and the mail was quite reliable for only one cent postage.

There are cards that show trains and trolleys running on lines which have now

been destroyed. Getting from place to place was difficult and slow but excursions went to places like Hershey and Atlantic City. Even in the 30's my great uncle would take a trolley from Lancaster and then walk four miles to our home on Memorial Day which was then called Decoration Day. And I can remember, when I was quite small, walking miles from the trolley line to our home after a Sunday School picnic at Litz Park.

Often post cards show the old delivery trucks that brought bread or ice to the door several times a week. Still other vehicles picked up the crates of eggs and cans of milk from the farmer on a regular basis.

Pictures of banks, schools and churches now have

historical value. These postcards showed all facets of life in the early 20th century from fairs and parades to advertisements for cemeteries and political candidates. Now if only I could find a suitable book to mount them in

How to grow blueberries

LIMA — Many areas of Pennsylvania have soil and climatic conditions that will grow blueberries well, says James J. McKeehen, Delaware County extension agricultural agent.

Currently, there is great interest among home gardeners who desire a few plants for home use, and in commercial planting for pick-your-own purposes.

The soil pH is an important point to consider when planting blueberries. They thrive in acid soils with a pH of 4.8 to 5.2. Above that range, their leaves usually turn yellow. This condition is known as iron chlorosis. The soil should be tested before planting blueberries. The results of a reliable soil test will include recommendations pertaining to soil pH and fertilizing.

Random applications of fertilizer to blueberries is a poor practice since the

young roots are very sensitive and may be injured by improper fertilizer materials. Incorporate the necessary acidifying materials into the soil.

If possible, once plants are set, they should be thoroughly watered to make good soil contact with the roots.

After planting, apply four to six inches of mulch. Sawdust, shredded bark, rotted or spoiled hay and pine needles all are good mulching materials. The mulch should extend 15 to 18 inches on either side of the plant. Mulch assures better soil moisture levels and reduces weed competition.

It should be pointed out that birds also love blueberries. They will eat them just as they start to ripen. A netting arrangement usually resolves the problem.

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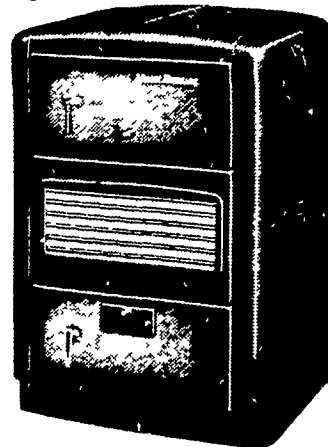
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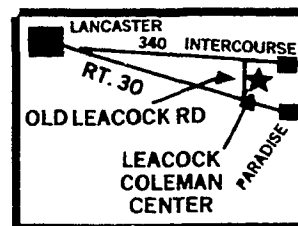


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