

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Indian lore has always held a fascination for me. Maybe it is because I was told that an Indian encampment was near our farm at the confluence of the Cocalico Creek and the Conestoga River. Maybe it is because I've collected some arrowheads and also been given some. Anyway I've always enjoyed reading about Indians and Indian traders.

There were many Indian fur traders who lived along the Susquehanna River. One border of our farm is part of Peters Road which was named for Peter Bazillion, an early trader from East Can. Some of them supplied rum to the Indians and this brought trouble. Many Indians died from diseases which the white settlers brought with them and others as a result of the introduction of firearms.

There were many Indian tribes here in Eastern Pennsylvania in the early 1600's and 1700's. The Conestoga Indians that lived in Lancaster County are believed to be descendants of

also found remains of long houses, 45 feet by 8 feet, where several families lived with bark as divisions in the pole-type buildings. Each family had its own fire with a smoke hole in the roof above. A matron was head of the family and her married daughters lived with her.

The Paxton Boys, 25 or 30 armed and mounted men, killed the last of the Conestoga Indians in 1763. They burned the dwellings and killed all the Indians that they found at their village on December 14th. Then 10 days later they swooped down on the Lancaster jail where the remaining ones had been sheltered for safe keeping and massacred the remaining men, women and children.

Now all that remains of these first settlers of North

the Susquehannocks. As they had no written language, the only knowledge we have of them is what archaeologists are able to tell us from their digs in Washington Boro and other sites. Remains of pipes, beads, spoons, hatchets and knives have been found in graves. They have

Homestead Notes

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strongly that they must just practice until they can perfect the art of talking without moving their lips.

She points out that ventriloquism goes back to ancient Greece and enjoyed great popularity during the Middle Ages. Now she feels there is increased interest in it. She says it is an art, a novelty kind of theatre. Lots of people set up their nose at ventriloquism.

When Coconut, Key and Huggy came out in their trunks for the picture-taking session, they talked to me and really seemed to come to life. I surprised myself by talking to them. It seemed quite natural. Debra admitted, "I treat them as though they're real and then the audience believes. If I don't believe why should you?"

Indeed, when I requested that they "talk" to the camera they responded willingly and with a lot of "talk" with a quip. Seeing them in action makes a lot of sense that they are in fact, duplicates of each other and of the talent provided by Debra.

Giving those duplicates life is an art. It takes a lot of talent - and it provides some great entertainment.

Start your own 4-H club

LEBANON — "If you want to be a 4-H member and there is no club in your neighborhood, start your own," advises Linda Rohrbach, Lebanon 4-H Agent.

If you are between 8 and 19 years old, you can join 4-H regardless of where you live. There are only two things you should have to start a 4-H Club.

First, you must have five or more boys and girls who want to join. Many of your friends will want to join your new club.

Second, you must have an adult leader. Many 4-H leaders are parents of club members. Ask your parents or some of your friends'

parents to help lead your new club.

When you start a new club, you get to choose a club name, elect your own officers, and select the projects and activities you like. You can have parties and tours, attend the 4-H Olympic Day and Fair, and learn more about the projects you select.

As a 4-H member, you can choose from more than 100 different projects. Popular projects are foods, clothing, electricity, photography, babysitting, automotive, livestock, crops, dog care, and bicycling. Some others are gardening, entomology, crafts, caravan, home grounds improvement, geology, small engines, tractor care, and wood-working.

According to Linda, camping, public speaking, recreation, and judging are some of the special activities your club can become involved in.

Talk to your friends, find

an adult leader, and call the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service office of your County.



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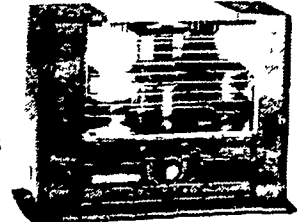
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