

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



The Black Forest area of Germany has mostly fir trees and is dark, hence the name Black Forest. There are many paths for hiking and bicycling in it.

Our bus stopped in Frieburg for lunch.

As I walked up the street, I noticed an eating place where they sold long buns to passersby. The price was 1.95 marks or about \$1.00 so I bought one. To my surprise it appeared to have a raw fish in it with cucumber slices and mayonnaise. Someone tells me it was pickled, but anyway I managed to eat it.

At an outdoor market held on a cobble stone street, I bought some fresh tomatoes and heard young musicians playing in hopes that people would throw coins in their open music cases.

As we approached Heidelberg, we saw tobacco fields in bloom. They have the same weeds as we

do such as thistles, nettle and wild carrots. Here we saw a castle that was built in 1300 and restored. The university here was established 600 years ago and one-sixth of the total population are students. Many of them dressed and looked very outlandish as their hair was dyed the colors of the rainbow.

We noticed that the grain fields had all been sprayed and were told this was to stiffen the stems so that they wouldn't lodge. A Canadian farmer, on another tour, was impressed with the large kernels.

Some of our group were late for breakfast and we learned later that they were stuck in an elevator and it had to be jacked up and manually cranked open. After that episode a lot of people used the stairs.

We visited two farms in Germany. The one was owned by a prince who showed us his 16-cow milk parlor, computer printout

LANCASTER — There will be lots of fresh grapes, Bartlett pears and purple plums to pack in those

there on the farm. He sloshed through the mud to point out particular cows that were bred to American sires. His 800-acre farm was one of the biggest in Western Germany. He feeds corn and grass silage and soybean meal to his 300 cows.

We drove through towns like Straasburg, Kassel and Hannover and saw names like Herr, Huber and Weber. After a Wiener schnitzel lunch, we visited a farm located in the middle of a village. The cows live in a barn all of their lives and a modern pig house was a few feet from an 1100 A.D. Lutheran church. The farmers sell potatoes and beets to co-ops and feed wheat, oat and barley. As we left, Mr. Kaiser, the farmer, told us that "the man without work is a poor man."

Next we travel on a triple-decker boat up the Rhine River.

Preparing the lunch box

school lunch boxes during September.

U.S. Department of Agriculture marketing specialists say these and several other food items will be in abundance, including: chicken, turkey, pork, eggs, milk and dairy products, lemons, limes, dried prunes, rice and dry beans.

Items expected to be in adequate supply-enough to meet normal needs-include: beef; apples; canned, frozen and chilled citrus juices; major canned non-citrus fruits, including peaches, pears, fruit cocktail and apple sauce; fresh potatoes; onions; frozen snap beans, sweet corn and spinach;

canned snap beans and tomatoes; and dry peas.

Items expected to be light, or not enough for normal needs, include: frozen potatoes, frozen lima beans and green peas; canned lima beans, sweet corn and green peas; and peanuts.

USDA marketing specialists said peanut supplies will increase as harvest of the new crop continues. It's expected to be 60 percent above 1980's drought-stricken crop which shortened supplies and raised prices of peanuts, peanut butter and other products containing peanuts. So, moms will be able to rely on that old favorite peanut butter sandwiches.



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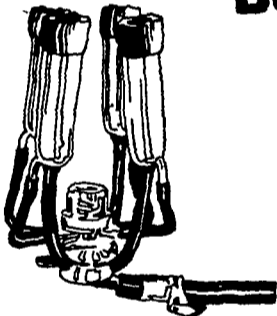
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