

## Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Last week I spent a most pleasant day with my daughter, Judy, who lives in Palmyra. She had a days vacation and asked me to go along with her to see some historic sites in Philadelphia.

We took a train out of Lancaster and arrived at the 30th Street Station - one-half hour late, but we had no schedule to keep so it didn't bother us. As it was a weekday, the only thing that was crowded was the subway that we took to 5th Street in the historic area of Philadelphia. We were packed in like cattle in a truck but the car traveled at high speed between stops and we were at our destination in no time.



First we toured Old City Hall which was used by the U.S. Supreme Court from 1791 to 1800. Next door was Independence Hall which was constructed in 1732; the Constitutional Convention was held here. The Liberty Bell has now been moved to its own special pavilion.

Throughout the day we visited ten more buildings and saw two films. One was about the founding of Philadelphia and the other was on Benjamin Franklin's life. Both were shown in huge auditoriums with only about a dozen people present.

The homes of John Todd, Dolly Madison's first husband, and the home of Bishop White were quite interesting as they showed the difference between the middle-class citizen of the 1700s and the upper-class.

While eating our lunch in a reconstructed 18th century tavern, we were surprised by a heavy rainstorm. Nevertheless, we made our way to colonial Christ Church which was built between 1727 and 1754 and where William Penn's family worshipped.

## Governor's tree

(Continued from Page B2)

carols from the group, for official photographs and interviews with the broadcast media.

"I hope you all found your ornaments," she told the assembled youngsters. "Every single one is just beautiful."

A flurry of picturetaking ensued, as youth from across the state lined up with the smiling and gracious first lady of the state for a photo remembrance of their afternoon at the Governor's house.

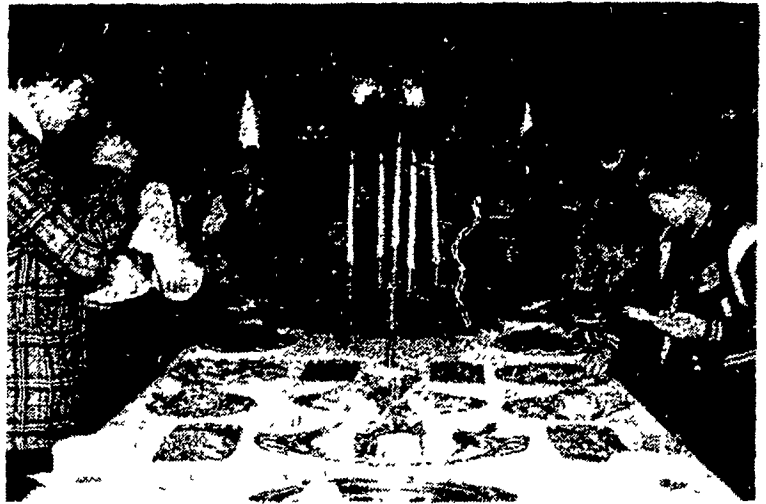
At 4 p.m. the reception ended as farm families headed back to their rural homes and a sudden quiet descended on the state rooms of the mansion. Ginny Thornburgh reflected on her joy at being able to have so many children visit and experience the Governor's home and, a mother herself, commented on how such a large assembly of children had been so well behaved.

The Hallowells also expressed their appreciation for the

Next we walked to the Betsy Ross House where the maker of the first American flag lived. I was amazed to learn that she also made musket balls for the Continental Army and was an upholsterer too. We enjoyed the Pa. Horticultural Society exhibits and the Marine Corps Memorial Museum. We saw a printing press in operation which was made in Manheim.

If you plan to visit Philadelphia, do stop at the Visitor Center first.

We walked about 17 blocks, some of it through the rain, but it was all worth it.



The treats offered to the hungry guests were as beautiful and delicious as the ornaments on the tree were unique and handcrafted.

cooperation among the several farm groups in gathering the hundreds of ag ornaments, and the enthusiasm with which they had received the idea. According to Trish Hallowell, she had spoken during the afternoon with numerous mothers who said their families had made and used similar ornaments in their own holiday celebrations.

But at least one ornament originally intended for the display never made it to Harrisburg.

The explanation for the missing decoration came in a letter from a Perry County FFA chapter. It seems that one of the ornaments intended for the tree had "rotten" before being sent. The letter's total honesty about the fate of the ornament had been especially touching to Mrs. Thornburgh.

A statement released during the

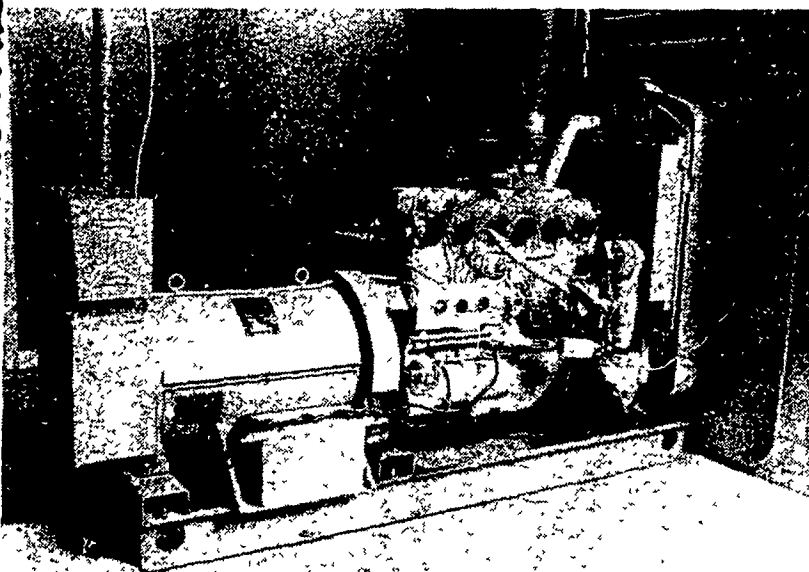
afternoon from the Governor summed up the family's appreciation of the ornaments and the spirit they lent to the season.

"Our family Christmas tree, and the hundreds of beautiful handcrafted ornaments on it, are symbolic of our faith in the future of Pennsylvania agriculture," he said. "We are gratified by the dedication of our 4-H and FFA members who took the time to make these ornaments, and at the same time, are reassured that their dedication carries over into their lives and dreams."

And he added, "Christmas is a time of rededication to our goals and aspirations. I know that spirit is embodied daily in the lives and work of our farm community. This gives us further cause, at this most holy time of the year, to rejoice in our hopes for the future."

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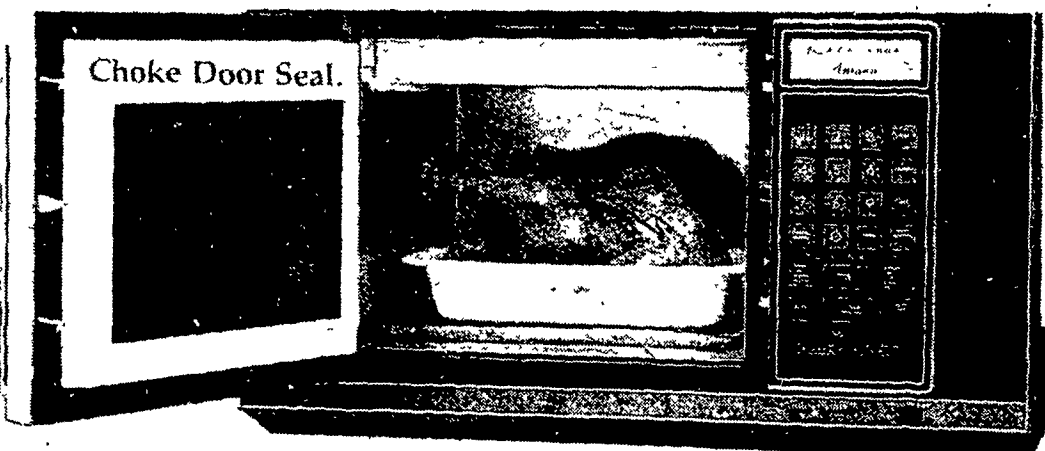
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