

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



It is rather nice to settle back into a regular routine again after the bustle and activities of the holiday season. Once again, we can read the newspapers the same day that they arrive and do some of the things we'd put off all during the Fall.

Even though only some of my sisters and only some of their families were able to come to our house for a Saturday night supper, we had over 35 people milling around in our five rooms. And the next day we had a few less when Allen's brothers and their families came for Sunday dinner. We exchanged gifts and I received several handmade items. My daughter made appliance covers for me and my sisters made dolls with magnets for the refrigerator and a cloth, red hen to hold pencils or flowers.

One thing that we had too much of was food—especially candy, cookies, cheese and mixed nuts. It is so very easy to nibble when food like this is constantly available. Ordinarily I don't keep anything around the house more fattening than apples, celery or carrots to nibble on.

Our two boys were home and helped Allen catch up with some of his work. I do believe he could keep six men busy building and repairing around here. They built an "over-roof" on the calf barn. Yesterday, the peak was left open for ventilation but too much rain and snow came into the building. Therefore, he asked Philip to figure out the amount of lumber

needed to build a small roof above the opening the full length of the building. When that was completed, he bought siding as the one side of the building had never been properly finished. And of course there are always some welding jobs that have been saved for them to do as he feels that they can do a better job than he can.

Now that our five overnight guests have gone back to their jobs and to school, we can consider doing some entertaining on a much smaller basis. I've already planned two dinner parties for next week.



Hershey and Mary Ann Bare stand in the lawn in front of their farm home with dairy barns in the background. Bare will be honored this week in Harrisburg as a 1982 Master Farmer for his outstanding dairy and cropping operation.

Mary Ann Bare

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library once a week for six weeks for students who take out books. But books are not their only reward to coming to the summer program. Mary Ann also reads to those who come, and she says, "I read to everyone, and even sixth graders love to be read to."

It doesn't need to be stated, but Mary Ann says, "I really enjoy children." She also makes it clear that she is thrilled when she can open their lives to the richness offered by books.

Reading is one of her favorite

pastimes, and she adds, "I like novels and all kinds of things. I really like any kind of reading." She admits that she must limit her reading so that some less interesting chores get taken care of.

Being a teacher had always been a dream for Mary Ann, but she chose instead to study business for one year at Eastern Mennonite College before marrying Hershey and having a family.

Now she says she has become totally absorbed with her library work, and if she ever considered studying further it would be in that area. "I love to be where there are books," she says.

In addition to her work at school, Mary Ann volunteers on Sunday evenings at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon. She works at

the desk where she directs visitors and provides information.

The Bares are members of the Fairland Brethren in Christ Church in Cleona where she teaches Sunday School to children from ages 1½ years to three years. She states, "It's really interesting. They come in as babies and they start to grow up while they're with us. I really like being with them."

Mary Ann grew up in the suburbs of Lancaster and although her father worked for a feed company, she was not farm oriented. But she quickly says, "I like being on the farm. It is a really nice area to live in. I don't feel so isolated and we are close to town."

She also makes it clear that she feels a farm is a great place to raise children. "Our children have never lacked for things to do. They were both in 4-H and both wrestle."

One reason she never became involved in farm work is that Hershey farmed first with his brother and then with his sons and a fulltime hired man.

It's obvious that their children's activities are important. In ad-

dition to wrestling, Robby now plays the drums and hopes to gain a position in the high school band. Mike is just beginning a course in computer programming at the Thompson Institute in Harrisburg.

Besides her love of reading, Mary Ann also likes music and often plays her organ for her personal enjoyment. She does some preserving, but says her garden is now limited mostly to corn and tomatoes, having cut back from earlier years when the garden dominated a large area behind their home.

One day a week Mary Ann can be found on the road from Lebanon to Lancaster going to visit her mother who lives in the Mennonite Home near Park City. Mary Ann takes her to the hairdresser and out to lunch, an event they both look forward to.

Mary Ann's life is filled with activities which bring pleasure not just to her but to many others around her. She has a very strong sense of the importance of her family and of her commitment to the community around her.—S.B.



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