

# Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Even though Lancaster County has at least half a dozen fairs within its borders, somehow my husband and I don't manage to go to them very often. But we do take the time to attend either the York Fair or the Bloomsburg Fair. This year it was the latter.

Allen chose a rainy day and

assured me that it would be fair weather on the other side of the Appalachian Trail as that is what a weatherman reported. Well, it rained during the whole two hour trip and off and on all through the afternoon.

We saw the displays of fruits and vegetables. The displays of arts

and crafts. The displays of flowers and baked goods and also the beautiful arrangements by several different Granges. Despite the weather, a large crowd attended the fair.

Actually, the rain didn't bother us as we spent most of the afternoon seated in a large building. It was here that the horse pulling competition was held. There were 18 teams of heavy work horses entered, and it took a long time to gradually eliminate them as they progressed through different weight pulls. Teams competed from New York, Indiana, Michigan, Vermont and Pennsylvania.

They were required to pull a sled weighted down with sand bags a distance of 16 feet. They breezed easily through the 3000 lb., 4500 lb. and 5500 lb. pull. But by the time they had increased the weight to 6000 lb., then 6500 lb. and finally 6900 lb. there was only one team that moved the sled the full 16 feet.

It appeared that the horses that had their heart in the job and really wanted to win for their owner won. Isn't that the way with people too? We must have our heart in our work in order to do a good job.

# Japan's Kindness

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really hasn't had the time to work. He has enjoyed such activities as a visit to Hershey, Philadelphia, Green Dragon Market and even an outing to a square dance. While he didn't like the dancing much, saying "it's difficult," he did enjoy meeting a girl from Japan with whom he could converse in his own language.

A high point of his visit to Lancaster County was an evening at the Manheim Fair where he participated in a bag tying contest, showing his skill at making a miller's knot. He captured fourth place and now has a ribbon to take home with him.

Although his English is not fluent, Susumu is an interested student and says he wishes to learn all he can about farming and farm management, and will share what he learns with others when he returns. He also brought out notes he had made about his own country to help in answering questions. He explained that the income in his family is divided into 20 percent for wages, 20 percent for the bank, 30 percent for machines, oil, seeds, fertilizer and other supplies and 30 percent for food and household needs.

He called American food "very different" and says his favorites are pizza and hamburger. Both of these foods are available in Japan, but not as readily as here. He used his hands to describe how Japanese pizzas are small and those in this country are "big size." He added, "And very good."

The Erbs have treated him to unusual foods, even for an American. They have served moose meat and salmon, both from expeditions of Wilbur.

In trying to describe his interests and feelings, Susumu said that he feels international friendships are important and that there needs to be a better understanding between countries.

The trip to Lancaster County lasted just 10 days, but concludes an experience in this country that allowed him to visit farm families in North Dakota and in Indiana and Franklin Counties in Pennsylvania. For his free time Susumu wishes to visit New York City, and compare an American city with Tokyo, and then will travel back to North Dakota to visit his first host family.

One lasting impression of this country will be the "kindness" of the people here.

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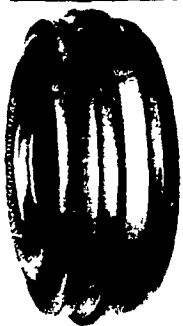
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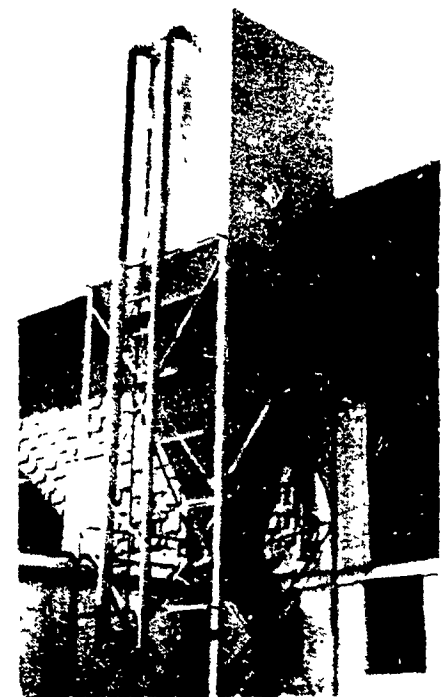
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