

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



The holidays are over, but the memories still linger. It was a busy time. Having the family home was very nice but it is also pleasant to again settle into a regular routine.

Some of the boys drove ridiculous hours in order to get here. One drove over icy roads and through snowstorms for 18 continuous hours - the whole way from Wisconsin. The other drove 20 hours without stopping on his drive from Maine. On top of that, his car broke down at 3:30 a.m. on a main road and he had to wait until daylight when a policeman awakened him and took him for parts so that he could repair the engine.

We have a houseguest from Georgia and another houseguest that we picked up at the Philadelphia Airport. He came from Wisconsin and stayed with us for five days. He helped the men work. They repaired the manure spreader, hung a large gate, installed metal window frames in the barn, put sawdust in the cow stalls, dug a drainage ditch, dehorned heifers and roughened the cement floor in the heifer barn with a rented electric jackhammer. It certainly was no vacation on the farm.

We entertained our larger family of cousins, uncles and aunts the weekend after Christmas. There were 25 people on each day and my

children helped to add boards to the tables and carry chairs from the attic. I put myself to sleep at night by counting my chairs to be sure that I had enough to seat everyone at the tables.

I really enjoyed having my two-year-old granddaughter here two days in a row as then she was more familiar with her surroundings and would run and hug me. There is nothing like a little loving to make one feel wanted and happy. So often we hold back our true feelings until it is too late to show them to those that we love.

Pa. gets mine funds

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania is one of 15 states to share in \$7.5 million of Federal funds to reclaim abandoned coal mined lands. Over \$1.5 million will be allotted to the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in the Commonwealth, reports James Olson, State Conservationist.

The funds are in the U.S. Department of Interior 1984 appropriations and are directed to SCS under the Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP).

"SCS in Pennsylvania will receive \$1.5 million for abandoned mine reclamation and \$250,000 for technical staff needs," stated Charles Wilson, SCS RAMP Leader. "These monies should permit the start of another 10 projects." Wilson added that there is a backlog of plans ready for construction.

Funds for RAMP come from a per ton fee on active, deep and surface coal mining operations.

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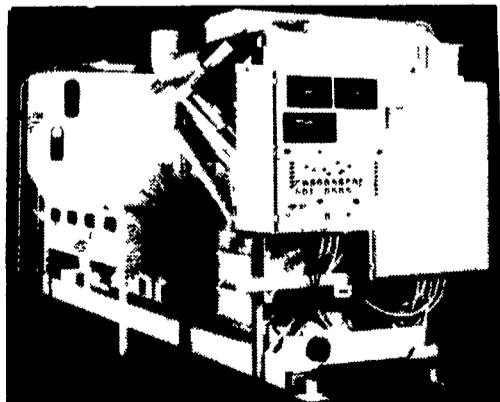


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