

## Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



palachian Trail before I'm too old to attempt it. My husband doesn't care for hiking and would sooner rest when Sunday comes around.

Several couples from a nearby county visited us recently as they were interested in seeing the "Old Weidler Place." Some of them had ancestors who lived here on our farm. Hans Michael Weidler crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1727. These visitors said they felt as though they were walking on "holy ground" as they stepped on our front porch. We entertained them with stories of happenings here long ago that were passed down by word of mouth.

They too had hoped to walk through our meadow but they came on a rainy Sunday. Anyone who walks in our meadow would have to watch their step as our fifty some cows surely do not.

River. I'd guess that they enjoy the scenery and the exercise. They tell me they've walked through other meadows in our area.

I would like to have the opportunity to walk some of the Ap

We all know that jogging is of interest to a lot of people. We see them along the highways and byways as we drive by. Someone has said that when they see a jogger "smiling", then, they will join their ranks.

I've been noticing more and more folks who enjoy walking. Maybe they are older people who feel that running would be too strenuous for them. Many couples from a nearby development walk down our long lane to the farm early each morning. Some have the excuse of exercising their dog. At least they are getting out in the fresh air before the heat of the day.

Several people have asked me if they could come and walk through our meadow along the Conestoga

## Rehlersburg Adventurers 4-H Club

The Rehlersburg Adventurers 4-H Club elected officers at their first meeting this year. The officers are Nannette Coryell, president; JoLyn Batz, vice president; Marc Seiler, secretary; Stephanie Kintzer, treasurer; Kelly Reed, news reporter; Kathy and Karen High, song leaders; and Trisha Reed and Sheri Bentzel, same leaders.

At their next meeting they decided to go to Knobles Grove, an amusement park. Two members gave demonstrations. One was how to make a popsicle wishing well by Dorinda Lingle and the other was how to make oatmeal-peanut butter crunch by Trisha Reed.

The group worked on their projects at their next meeting.

## North Carolina visitors

(Continued from Page B14)

None of the 4-H'ers is from a poultry farm.

Hogs, beef and dairy are also large agricultural crops in Randolph County. There are not as many dairies, according to Peterson, but they are larger, with 100 head or more per dairy.

Peterson observed that Lancaster County seems to be flatter. "We are in the center of the state, but part of the Piedmont area, and it tends to be pretty hilly. There is a lot of timber and a lot of the land is not open to farming."

The county population is 85,000, mostly in small towns. Asheboro, the county seat, has a population of 25,000.

Chief field crops are soybeans, corn and tobacco. "This year it's been extremely hot. Peterson says. He said the climate seems to be changing to colder winters and hotter summers. "Normally we don't get many days over 90 degrees, but the humidity is high."

An extension agent there for 12 years, Peterson explained that in North Carolina there are basically three kinds of 4-H clubs - community, which meet year round and have about 250 members; special interest clubs which meet more intensely for short periods of time; and some individual project

clubs.

Special interest clubs may have from 500-600 4-H'ers in the county, and offer such diverse classes as river rafting, woodcarving and electricity. There is an embryology project offered through the schools, and an "economics in action" class offered to high school juniors and seniors but taught outside regular school hours.

Until 1969 4-H was carried out through schools, but by mutual agreement it is now operated at other times. Peterson said this means they do not have a strong tradition of volunteer leadership. "We do have to work a little harder to organize leadership teams."

4-H projects are carried out during the winter months, and next week these North Carolina 4-H'ers will go to their state activity. Demonstrations are very strong in Randolph county, and Peterson explains, "We feel it is one of our best learning tools. The kids have to learn the subject matter and the talking skills and they get some pretty nice awards."

Peterson feels strongly that trips like this one have merit. "It is valuable in learning about different cultures. It is an opportunity to live with another family, and it is invaluable in teaching the 4-H'ers to be more tolerant and accept differences a little better."

"It really gives a broadening experience, to see different parts of the county and learn how people from other areas live, their culture and their customs. And many people establish longterm, good friendships."

Jane Reid is very involved in 4-H as a mother, a leader and supporter. About the exchange she says, "Last year the hosts thoroughly enjoyed having these kids and we enjoyed getting to know them. We were looking forward to coming here because they were really good kids. It is an educational experience that you can't get any other way."

Mrs. Reid observed, "I can see that land here is very precious. Everybody uses every bit of land."

Her husband Sam, also a chaperone for the group, says, "I am very impressed. The people are very cordial and anxious to please." He experienced driving through some heavy Lancaster County traffic, including where road repairs have stalled traffic, and adds, "They are very cordial on the highway."

About the value of the exchange he points out, "People are generally people wherever you go. There didn't seem to be that much distance between our two groups." As for the speech, he said, "It really doesn't register on me. I don't notice any particular words."

Reid notes, "I find the landscape very similar, although it is a little more hilly where we live." His wife commented on the heavy storms which greeted them on the first night of their arrival. "We have storms at home but we haven't had one like that in a good while."

Reid said that most of the group had little knowledge of Lancaster County, except for hearing about the Pennsylvania Dutch. Most came just wanting to see whatever was offered.

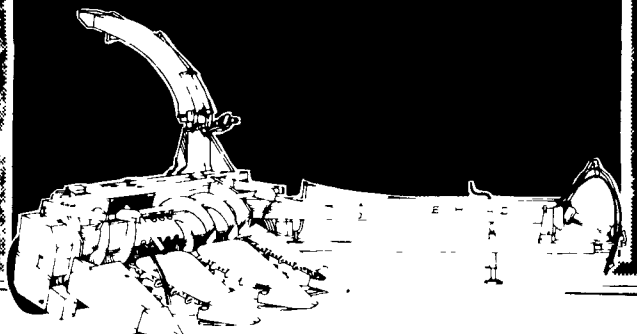
He found one distinct difference when he visited a local shopping mall, "There were no peanut shops. Every mall down there has a peanut shop, and you buy a bag and walk around and eat them while you shop."

The guests thoughtfully brought hand turned pottery pie dishes, made by Seagrove Potters. They also came supplied with North Carolina 4-H T-shirts for guests and hosts alike.

This two-way exchange came to a conclusion yesterday, but after a week filled with activity, both groups have grown to a deeper understanding, and friendships are sure to remain.

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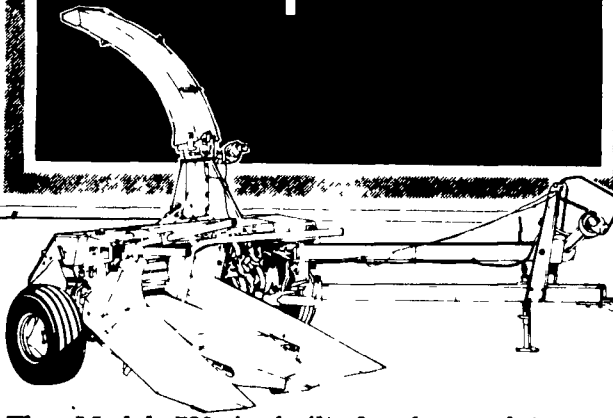
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