

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



This summer we held our own small family reunion again. In the 1930's, when my mother bought the farm on which we live, she planned a picnic along the bank of the Conestoga River in our meadow to celebrate her husband's and her brother's birthdays. They were both in July and therefore that is when we started our annual gatherings.

Now both my father and uncle are gone but my sisters and I have continued the custom of meeting in a park or at someone's home. By now my parents' 19 grandchildren are quite scattered. Over half of them no longer live in Penn-

sylvania and so only seven were able to attend. But some of those attending now have families of their own and so our numbers are expanded by small children.

As I only have four first cousins, ours is not the kind of reunion where one meets third and fourth cousins. We do not plan a program, but merely bring a lot of good food and than have time for catching up on each others lives. We learn when weddings will be held, when babies are expected and who is traveling to Europe or to Canada this summer.

Talking about traveling, my husband and I visited Cindy in

Niles, Ohio this past weekend. Not only did we have a nice visit with her, but Philip drove east from Chicago and spent two days with us too. We attended her company picnic and heard a concert by Jim Nabors, who played Gomer Pyle on television, in the evening.

The Pennsylvania and Ohio Turnpikes had a lot of traffic and the weather was damp to say the least. But being together was wonderful, even if we slept on the floor in our unfurnished apartment. She has a nicely equipped kitchen and she served us wonderful meals while we were there.

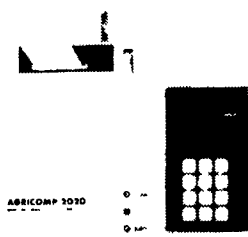
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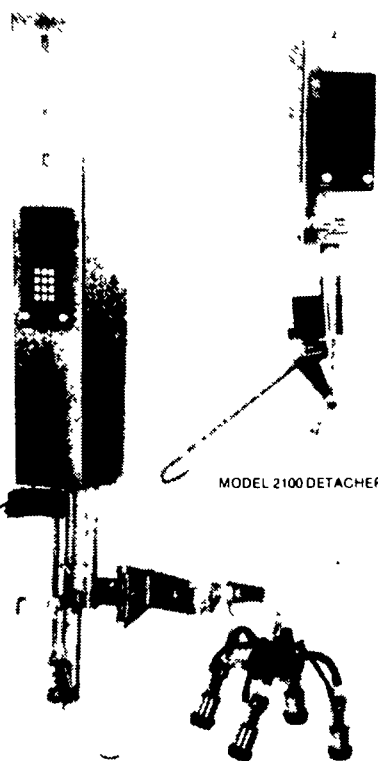
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