

Tobacco

(Continued from Page B2)

give corn to the animals."

Germans enjoy "brotchen" or little rolls for breakfast, a hearty meal for lunch and often a lighter meal in the evening. A standard of most German homes is coffee time in the late afternoon. And the bread is heavier, often whole grain. He said he enjoyed the French bread served in this country. A surprise was having potato chips served as part of a meal, whereas he is accustomed to eating them only as a snack.

He has not found any beer to compare with "good German beer," which he says is a "real natural beer." And he has found local wines to be too sweet for his taste.

Dirk has made many young friends in this area through his own friendship with a nephew of the Witman's, Chip Weidman. He observes that young people seem to have the same interests in his home country and here.

Traveling with Witman as he goes about his duties, Dirk had the opportunity to visit Amish farms in Lancaster County. He said he had heard of them before coming to the County, and added, "I admire them. It is a strange kind of life in today's world."

He enjoyed the discovery that he could understand the Amish as they conversed in Pennsylvania Dutch, although admitted that they could not follow his High German or the dialect, from his home area. "Pennsylvania Dutch is like some German dialects," he explained.

American television has been an experience for Dirk. "You have a lot of channels and a lot of commercials," he says emphatically. In West Germany, television viewing is limited because the stations do not broadcast the whole day, and commercials are limited to one 45 minute segment, shown in the afternoon.

He laughed as he said the most famous German in this country is tennis star Boris Becker. Because of Becker's success, tennis is growing in that country. Dirk's own interests are in soccer, table tennis, basketball and music. His main interest is in traveling, and he has visited Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Morocco.

Next year his goal is to learn French. "It is very important to speak two languages, and Germany does a lot of trading with France."

Dirk appreciates this rare opportunity to get to know the United States. "This is a rare moment—not too many people get this chance," he says seriously. "I like the people. They are very friendly."

When he returns he will work for a company other than his father's to learn more about becoming a tobacco merchant. Perhaps then he will choose to study economics at a university, and eventually would like to help his father as a tobacco merchant.

For the immediate future, Dirk is eager to continue with the tobacco harvest, learning our language and customs as he lives and works with the Witman's. It has been a rewarding visit, providing a lifetime of memories.

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Last week on our way to Ag Progress Days near State College, we drove through Rothrock State Forest. It was a beautiful, quiet ten mile drive through stately trees with very little underbrush. I was pleasantly surprised to see two orange-colored deer in a clearing near a cabin. However, we did manage to get lost for a bit before we found Route 26 but that only added to the adventure.

We stopped for lunch and discussed the fact that this was the first fall in twenty years that we

were not involved in hauling a child and all of his or her possessions to a college. You see, on the way to Ag Progress Days, we saw many young people and their parents headed for Penn State University. The cars had racks of clothes on hangers, boxes that blocked the back window and plants on the front seat.

We could easily imagine the scene when they arrived. First, find a parking place near the entrance to the dorms. Then, if you are lucky, get a cart to pile the

cartons on and hope the elevators are operating. Some of our six children had sixth or seventh floor rooms and those steps get mighty steep—especially when you are our age. So, Allen and I agreed that even though we missed our annual trip to a college it was nice to finally come to an end. Enough is enough.

As we started our journey a bit late, due to a malfunctioning compressor, we stayed until closing time at five o'clock. Then we attended a cow sale in a nearby town and purchased several dairy animals. After arranging for trucking, we started for home and arrived after midnight.

When one goes away it seems that work piles up at home. So I'd better hurry and can that bushel of peaches that are waiting for me, pick those ever-bearing red raspberries and get some sweetcorn frozen.



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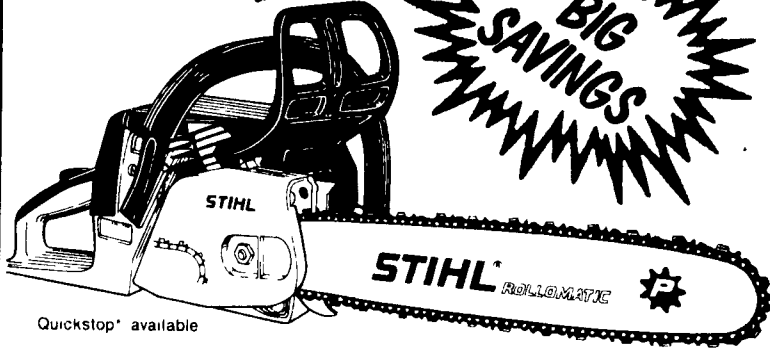
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