Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Last week I spent several hours walking throughout the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Forty-six people left Lancaster early in the morning to see the exhibits in this large building that is located on Fifth Avenue in Central Park. It extends from 80th to 84th streets. So you can understand that it takes a lot of walking to cover the whole area.

The fresh flowers are three feet across, were my first impression of elegance. These large units in the Great Hall were magnificant. We used cassettes to tour the special exhibition area which featured the Liechtenstein, Princely Collections. Among the works of art were paintings, sculptures, firearms and porcelains.

A Golden Carriage made in Paris in 1738 was an example of luxurious living. It was made of gilt and painted wood, gilt bronze, steel and fabric. European nobles expressed their power by wearing fancy clothes and driving fancy carriages when they entered cities of their residences. Their horses wore blankets which were richly embroidered.

One section of the museum contained many rooms which depicted various periods of furniture--from Shaker to modern day. Other areas of the buildings had huge Egyptian temples and rooms filled with decorated coffins and jewelry.

I felt that one of the most beautiful exhibits was the costumes worn by men and women of India. The lighting and music added a great deal to the fancy

On our trip back to Lancaster, we stopped for our evening meal at a Greek restaurant in New Jersey. We were given so much food that almost everyone left with a "doggy

bag" in hand. Their desserts and breads were an outstanding feature on their menu. It was good to be home again.

Rock salt may damage sidewalk, plants

NEWARK, Del. - Many people reach for rock salt to rid their walks and driveways of unwanted ice But this solution poses problems of its own.

"Excessive salt can cause one type of concrete to flake and deteriorate," warns University of Delaware extension agricultural engineer, Dr. Jim Scarborough.

There are two kinds of concrete, he explains. The more expensive type-air entrained concrete-contains millions of tiny bubbles that help it withstand freezing, thawing and salt damage. The other type-non-air entrained concrete-is not protected against these elements.

"The two types look identical at first," says Scarborough "But after a hard winter or two, you can tell you have air entrained concrete if it's holding up well. The other kind will show signs of flaking and exposed stones '

Salt won't hurt air entrained concrete, but it damages the cheaper type

Another reason to avoid using rock salt to melt ice is the corrosion it can cause on the finish and aluminum parts of your car Excessive salt may also damage or even kill plants and shrubs.

Scarborough recommends several ways to minimize the harmful effects of deicing salt. Don't use it as a substitute for shoveling. Remove as much ice and snow as possible before sprinkling lightly with a mixture of salt and sand.

Or, instead of salt, use a mixture of granular urea fertilizer and sand-3 pounds of fertilizer to 100 pounds of sand-to melt the ice. Fertilizer can also damage non-air entrained concrete, but when used in moderate amounts it benefits plants.

If you want traction rather than melting, Scarborough recommends using sawdust, sand or clean cat litter. They won't harm plants, car parts or walks and driveways



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