

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



The town of Jim Thorpe was renamed in honor of the football hero. Formerly it was the home of 13 millionaires who made their fortunes transporting coal down the Lehigh River.

One of the legacies of all this money is St. Mark's Episcopal Church. It compares favorably with some of the biggest churches that I've seen in New York City. It is laid out in the form of a cross and the altar is of white Italian marble. It has an Austin organ, Minton tile floors and Tiffany windows.

One of the men who benefitted greatly from finding coal at Summit Hill and the opening of the Lehigh Canal was Asa Packer. We were privileged to tour the 20-room mansion that he built in 1861. It contains all of the original furniture and fine wood-carvings by European artisans. There are 1,000 rosettes, each carved a bit differently, which cost \$75,000. I was

impressed with the grand Welty Orchestrian-a roller organ. This magnificent piece was shipped to Florida each time Mary Packer

Cummings went South.

It was difficult to realize that Asa Packer, who was apprenticed at age 17 as a house carpenter, died with a \$54 million estate.

Troy Fair Home Arts Competition

TOWANDA — Bradford County residents planning to enter the Troy Fair Home Arts competition should plan to enter now to avoid the last minute rush, Extension home economist Cathy Bakalar says.

The number of entries will be limited by the exhibit space available; the Linda Hulslander 4-H Building at the Fairground will house the exhibition during fair week, July 21 to 26.

The 454 possible classes are listed under the main headings of canned foods, sewing, needlecraft,

afghans, quilts, coverlets and bedspreads, rugs, traditional handcrafts and home furnishings. The Fair catalog, expected to be available in June, will list all classes.

Home Arts Committee members have added some classes and clarified others to accommodate Bradford County interests.

Questions should be directed to one of the following committee members: Marion Ballard, 297-2558; Eunice Wilston, 297-3779; Sallie Guthrie, 297-3113; or Shirley Fairchild, 265-5256.

On a recent Saturday, we traveled to Jim Thorpe, Pa. and spent the afternoon touring the town. Formerly this small town was known as Mauch Chunk. It has picturesque old stone houses and was called "The Switzerland of America."

On our way there, we stopped at Flagstaff Mountain Park Resort and climbed the observation tower to a scenic balcony where we had a 65-mile view of the Poconos. This lookout was used by the Leni Lenape Indians so that they could defend their homeland.



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