

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Recently, I leafed through a scrapbook my great-uncle kept. His collections were quite varied and I'd like to tell you about some of them.

A large part of his estate was his

collection of stamps and coins. He was an only child and had the means to purchase these items. I remember that he would show me the designs that he made with varied colored stamps. They kept him

busy through 35 years of retirement.

Earlier in his life he was an avid photographer. His main interest was historical buildings and several books contain photos of old houses in Lancaster. However, there are also pictures of a nearby covered bridge, the old distillery on his farm and one of him driving a binder in a wheat field. Another shows the large, old steam engine that helped to thresh the grain.

He had a very large collection of Indian artifacts. There were hundreds of arrowheads mounted on heavy cardboard that were shared at his death.

He kept many things in his scrapbooks. There was a 1734 draft of his farm and also a later one dated 1803. The boundaries of

the property were marked as "white oak tree, dogwood tree and black oak tree." It is interesting to note that the acreage was much less on the later one as some was probably sold to neighbors.

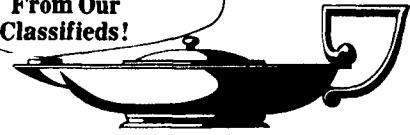
There are old receipts for newspaper subscriptions. One year of the "Lancaster Examiner" cost two dollars in 1830. And tax receipts in the 1840's ranged from

five to eight dollars for county and state tax. Another interesting receipt shows 24 barrels of "Ranch Brand" flour sent to Philadelphia from Lancaster, January 9, 1838 for which 3/4 cents per barrel freight was paid.

His keepsakes certainly bring back many memories of him as I page through his scrapbooks.

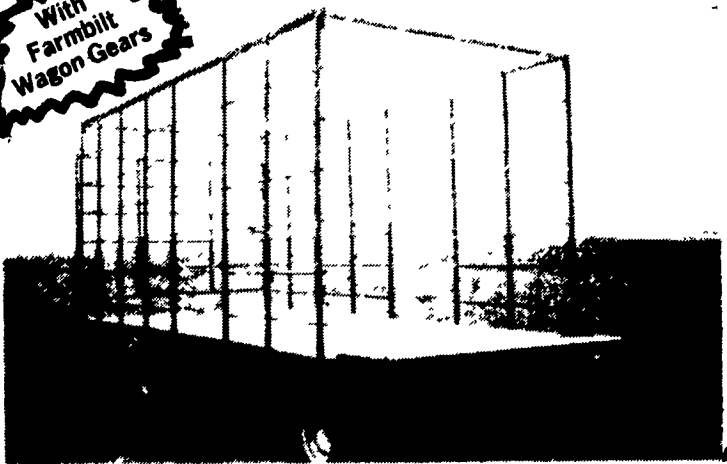
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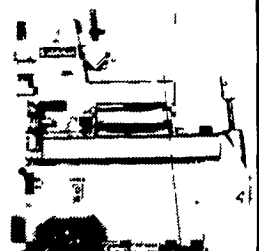
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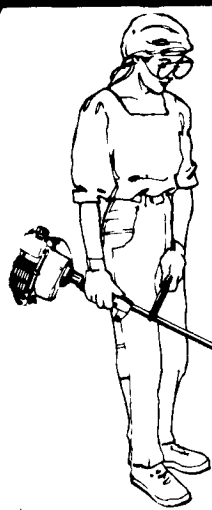
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