

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

Christmas season at my childhood home was very different from the Christmas that my grandchildren experience.

My sisters and I were given a dime or two and expected to buy three or four gifts. We could choose between handkerchiefs, pencils, candy or a comb. There was still the excitement of keeping the gift secret and wrapping it in the previous year's paper.

Our tree was one that my father found in our hilly meadow along the Conestoga River. Almost always it was a cedar with tiny, prickly needles. But it was our tree and we had some pretty balls to decorate it. Sorry to say, but most of them were broken as years went by.

Other decorations were more indestructible such as paper wreaths and bells. These were a faded red from years of use and sunlight. The bells could be folded flat for storage.

We hung up long, brown, cotton stockings at the chairboard in the kitchen. There was sure to be an orange in the toe with a few nuts and some hard candy on top--no toys.

A Christmas program at church was always looked forward to as we were given a box of chocolates afterwards. Even the journey to church was exciting as my father snapped the celluloid curtains of the 1923 Overland and the nine of us piled in for the trip to the village.

My grandchildren live in very affluent homes where a big tree is purchased and there are many toys for them than they can appreciate. I doubt if they color tablet paper and then glue paper rings together to make chains for decoration.

My one big gift each year, from a favorite aunt, was put away so it would not be broken. And, those same toys are still in the original boxes in good condition. Now they are called antiques.

Getting Financial Records Organized

YORK — Did you know that... for some families, getting financial records in order mimics Mark Twain's conclusion about the weather.

"Everybody talks about it, but nobody does anything about it." Yet, there is nothing too time consuming or difficult about keeping an accurate finger on your financial pulse. Once you've set up a system, the process is fairly mechanical and much more efficient than receipts scattered all over the house. The payoff for good record keeping comes all year long — when insurance coverage needs reviewing, when you apply for a loan and need a statement of your net worth, at tax time, and most of all, when you plan future expenditures.

- Record keeping can:
- * help you keep a close tab on where the money goes, which can be especially important in uncertain economic times.
 - * help you manage daily family financial responsibilities.
 - * help you locate records and

business papers easily when needed. The best formula for efficient record keeping depends on the individual family.

If your New Year's Resolution is to become better organized in 1989, then perhaps you'd like to attend a workshop on Getting Organized for 1989 sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension.

The workshop will be held in the Extension office meeting room, 112 Pleasant Acres Road, York from 10-11:30 a.m. or from 7-8:30 p.m. on January 9, 1989. What a great time to get started — you're only nine days into the new year! The cost is \$5.00 which includes the "Getting Organized" book. Advance registration is required. Call 757-9657 to register.

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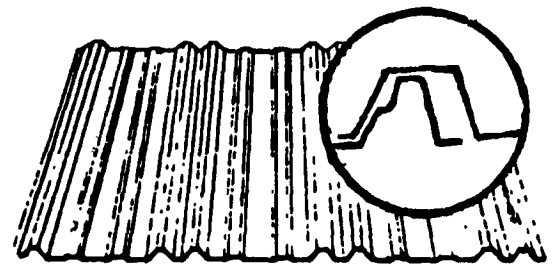
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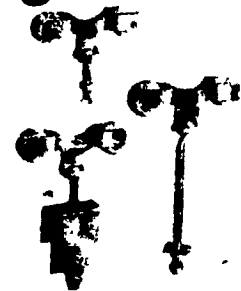
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