


# Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



For those of you who haven't flown in a small plane, you just don't know what you are missing—a real thrill that often includes a bumpy and noisy ride. In fact, for me, it is a bit scary to look down hundreds of feet to the farms, houses and rivers below you. I'll admit that on the commuter plane from Harrisburg to Kennedy Airport in New York City, several of the passengers relaxed and slept.

Our first surprise on our arrival was being told that our flight to Ireland on Aer Lingus was delayed. We were given a ten dollar voucher for dinner and finally took off at 11:30 p.m. more than 12 hours after we left home. There were almost 400 people packed on the large green plane that flew over 500 miles per hour at 35,000 feet or seven miles above the Atlantic Ocean.

At one o'clock, after midnight, we were served a big meal by the 14 stewardesses. We would sooner have slept but due to losing five hours crossing the ocean they fed us to help us adjust to the new time.

A bus took us to the Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel near Dublin. It was now Sunday and we had several meetings with Co-op members and leaders of agriculture on quotas, which they have in Ireland. Their farms are about 50 acres and 22 cows is the size of an average herd. They get \$15 per hundred for milk and their farms bring five to seven thousand per acre. The U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, Margaret Heckler, spoke to us. She said that one-half of their population is under 25 years of age.

Our meals were very hearty and consisted of many vegetables such as carrots, turnips, parsnips, potatoes and beans. For breakfast we had eggs, bacon, small sausages and blood sausage which was not a favorite.

Our tour of Dublin included St. Patrick's Cathedral which was founded in 1190 and rebuilt in the 14th century. There was ample time to shop during the eight days we spent in Ireland. Linen, crystal and wool were displayed in all of the shops. I bought a china sugar and cream set decorated with

shamrocks.


Our group of 28 farmers from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania attended a County Club and Pub for a dinner and to hear a stand-up comedian. We got back to our hotel after midnight only to find the huge, black, iron gates locked. We got in. All of the driving is on the left side of the road and gas costs \$3.60 per gallon.

Next week I'll tell you about the dairy farms and the 12th century castles that we visited.

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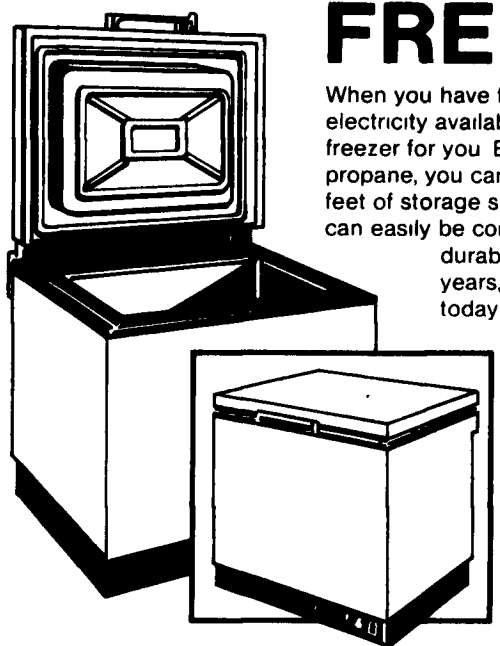
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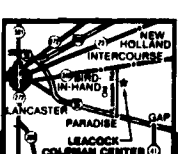
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