

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



As I write this we are having a cool morning here on our dairy farm. We've just been through some hot, steamy days. There isn't even a breeze as a hot air balloon drifts slowly over our woodland.

Occasionally a goose will honk along the river as some ducks float by on the calm water. A few birds twitter in the evergreen trees in the front yard. The neighbor's boats lay in readiness on the meadow bank for someone to put them into the water.

The dry cows with patiently near the hay rack for my son to bring them some bales. I hear a soft moo now and then as they swish their tails to chase insects.

All of this is in sharp contrast to my bus trip to the shore with my daughter yesterday. We traveled in a new coach that was even equipped to show movies. The casinos with their loud music and

glittering lights were crowded with people.

We had our lunch on the top floor of Pier 1 overlooking the ocean. Many sea gulls floated on the waves below us and swimmers jumped the waves as they came crashing ashore.

Quite a bit of time was spent in the sun simply "people watching." The human race surely comes in all sizes, shapes and colors. Even the clothes they wore were something to behold. They ranged from Sunday best dresses and high heels to quite skimpy attire. We browsed through many shops off the boardwalk but didn't spend much money.

I definitely prefer the life here on the farm to the crowded city. We have our own style of excitement such as the times when our 10 big heifers manage to push open a gate and tour the nearby housing development.

Plowing And Grange Picnic

YORK — During late August, the towns of Manchester, Mount Wolf and surrounding East Manchester Townships will come alive with festivities. "The National Plowing Contest, OLDE TYME DAYS '89 and the 116th Great Grangers Picnic - A Combined Celebration" will be held Thursday, August 24 through Sunday, August 27. Many activities including national competitions will take place on the Blain Rentzel Farm and two adjoining farms totaling over 200 acres. Friday, August 25, is Grange Day. Hundreds of Grange families are expected to attend the traditional festival.

The South Central Penn Historic Lifestyle and Power Society, annual sponsor of OLDE TYME DAYS, will be hosting the 116th Great Grangers Picnic as well as several national and state plowing contests. To help defray the costs of this enormous celebration, a two-dollar admission will be requested. All of the hosting organizations are non-profit organizations. Free camping facilities are available; however there are no hook-ups.

Special activities include:

Thursday, August 24, the York County Plowing competition starting at 9:30 a.m., with the Pennsylvania State Contest at 11:30 a.m., the State Antique Class competition at 2:00 p.m., followed by the state awards ceremony at 4:00 p.m. In the evening, the National Plowing Contest Banquet will be held at 7:00.

Friday, August 25 is Grangers Day, and will see the start of the National Contest with competitors from across the United States. The small plow division will start at 10:00 a.m., the big boys of the large plow division at noon, followed by an awards presentation at 3:00 p.m. Also scheduled at 10 a.m. is competitive horse plowing along with entertainment to cap the day's events.

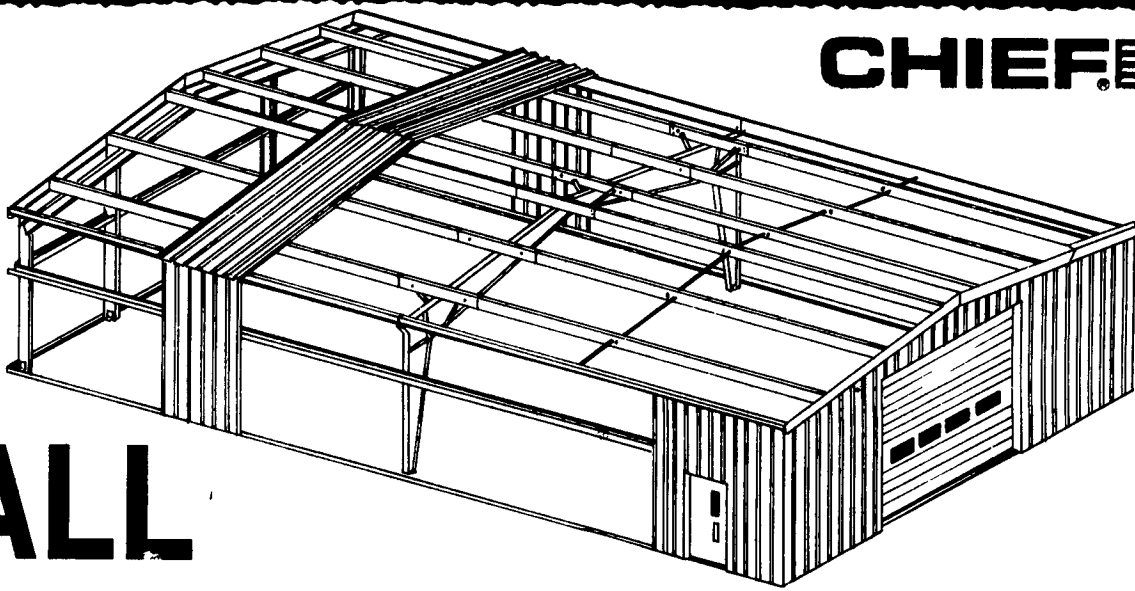
Saturday will build excitement, as more than forty contestants battle it out in the National Antique Class plowing contest beginning at 10:00 a.m. and finishing in

time for the national awards ceremony at 2:00 p.m. Following the awards, exhibition horse hitches, as well as an Early Era Fashion Show are planned. The day will come to an end with special activities and music.

The public is invited to attend the Olde Tyme Church Service on Sunday morning, August 27. There will be country music and horse pulling contests later in the day.

Pennsylvania youth groups are invited to participate in this exciting event. Other organizations interested in participating or supporting the show can call Traci Dolan at York County Farm and Industrial Equipment at (717) 764-6412 or (717) 764-5115 for general information.

The Pennsylvania State Grange is a 125-year-old family farm and rural organization representing 42,000 members statewide.



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