

# Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Fall is a time of preparation for the winter season. We harvest and store up food for ourselves and the animals here on our dairy farm. The men make plans to fill the big silos and the corn crib. I harvest the edible soybeans, dig potatoes and pull the peanut stalks and hang them up to dry. The last beans and tomatoes will soon be picked. And this year, I'll have an abundant supply of sweet, mild Chinese cabbage. It can be used like lettuce in salads, shredded for slaw or stir-fried.

This has been a good year for gathering nuts. There are so many hickory nuts that our many squirrels cannot carry them all away. The black walnuts cover the ground and I get a backache picking them all up. Picking them up is only a small part of the job of getting nutmeats for cookies. The hulls must be removed and then the nuts are allowed to dry before they are cracked open. Some people actually enjoy picking the nutmeats out of the shells. I guess I'm one of them.

# Have a Cranbarrel Of Fun At Cranberry Festival

CHATSWORTH, NJ — Have a CRANBARREL of fun at the sixth annual Chatsworth Cranberry Festival, Saturday, October 21, at Sunday, October 22; open 10:00 a.m. until dusk, held at the Cran-

berry Crossroads of Rtes. 532 and 563, capital of the Pine Barrens. Often called red gold, the harvest of cranberries has been measured in barrels since cranberry cultivation began in New Jersey's pine woods around 1835. Festival visitors can view the colorful harvest by taking a bog tour. A harvest tour schedule and reservation form is available by writing Box 331, Chatsworth, New Jersey 08019 or calling 609/387-7463.

Our middle daughter and her family visited us from Atlanta, Georgia, last week. Their daughter, Elizabeth, is 13-months-old and walks quite well. But, she didn't see a step down into our kitchen and she fell and got a small cut on her face. They were able to visit several friends in our area during their stay in Lancaster County. Judy found a place to buy reasonably priced natural-colored wool to make an afghan and her husband bought several train sets for Christmas.

Now that they're gone it seems a bit quiet here but I'm sure I'll find things to do to keep me busy.

Creating a Cranberry Tradition is a theme woven throughout the Fest's contests for the best-decorated house or business, the best-dressed vendor, and the most attractive booth. Prizes are given to the winning cranberry recipes, as well as to arts and crafts with a cranberry motif. A Pine Barrens photography contest and the Cranberry Flower and Landscape Show are visual gems. "Cranberry

Crossroads", the Flower and Landscape Show, is staged by the Medford Lakes Garden Club, and includes arrangements in cranberry hues.

Antiques, along with old-time engines and cranberry-sorting machinery are on display. On Sunday, October 22, antique car judges argue with intensity over the correct shade of cranberry while selecting the most-cranberry-colored car and truck at the Antique Car Show. Competition is also keen in the contest for the Biggest and Smallest Cranberry. Festival goers can pick their favorite shape cranberry from over twenty varieties on display and even taste them if they wish.

True to Piney lifestyle, dancing and singing along with Pine Needle music will be played by the Pineconers, the Pinelands Dulcimer Society, Country Is, Down River, and others. The Jersey Devil and his friends, the little cranberries, along with 1880's bog workers and highwheel bicyclermen will welcome festival guests. Cranberry lovers are asked to wear cranberry-colored clothing.

Cranberry Festival sponsors include the American Cranberry Growers Association, Jersey Fresh, and Ocean Spray. Call Chatsworth Club II - (609) 894-9232 or (609) 859-9701 for information, or write Box 331, Chatsworth, NJ 08019. Look for the Red School House signs to guide you to parking at the school for a \$2 donation.

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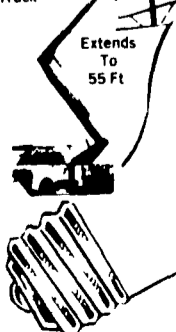
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