

## Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

The year 1961 stands out in my mind at the present time because I've just spent several hours reading my diary for that year. Our children's ages were one, four, seven, ten and twelve. Not only did I read but I wrote 18 pages of tiny writing so that each child got a run down of their activities that year.

It is interesting for Philip and Lisa to compare their son's activities to the things that his father did at the same age. Their son is a bit heavier and taller and walked a little sooner.

Our four-year-old girl was mother's helper. She was anxious for kindergarten to start so she could go to school too. Her brothers made a sandbox for her and she entertained the baby. She asked questions like, "When I die, how will God get my soul out of my body?" What a question for a four year old!

Now, the seven year old was a real boy. He drilled a hole down through the barn floor. He lay under a tree in the meadow when he was supposed to be pulling weeds. Often he fell into manure

as he chased calves into pens. He lost things — so many things. His brother and he liked to make pancakes for breakfast, french fries for dinner and cookies for supper whenever they got the opportunity. He also helped to unload hay.

The ten year old drove the big tractor and was very careful but in later years he did have two accidents. He was generous to a fault. He took his earn money and bought his classmates a basketball. He made a mistake and told his sister what her birthday gift was going to be and then took five dollars off of his "earn sheet" and told me to buy myself a dress to pay for his error. We took him to so many Little League baseball games and 4-H dairy meetings.

His older sister always said that she had to work too hard and I guess she did. I too was the oldest of seven and had to be a big helper. She cooked, baked, hoed, tended calves, and hated cleaning her room. But, she was taken to Lancaster every week for violin lessons. She made nice clothes by going to a 4-H Sewing Club and had girl friends visit overnight.

Life really wasn't that bad as at the end of a hot day we could all go swimming in the Conestoga River.

# Grube Family

(Continued from Page B16)

ously as her sister had done.

The Colemans bribed the church into accepting \$5,000 in exchange for dismissing the young minister. The church took the money, the minister left the area but, like Buchanan, he never married.

As caretakers to the mansion, the Grubes refuse numerous requests for tours of the mansion since it is co-owned by descendants of Robert Coleman who had purchased the land from Stiegel. Francis Coleman of Washington D.C. and his nephew William of Philadelphia, now own the property.

While the Grubes live in the Stiegel side of the mansion, the Coleman side is reserved for weekend visits from the Colemans.

It is Judy's job to polish the antique furniture and dust the volumes of ledgers that trace the history of the Coleman estate from the 1700s until recent times. Large matted deeds, indentures of servants and portraits, many of the Coleman family, hang on the walls or are stored in the attic that at one time served as servant quarters.

While the kitchen has been updated, most of the mansion remains in its former state. One room has hand-blocked wallpaper that dates to about 1815. The downstairs hallway is inlaid with six different types of wood. Several fireplaces in the mansion are still used by weekend guests.

Judy cleans the mansion weekly, and annually she hires friends to help give the mansion a thorough housecleaning.

One of the main reasons the Grubes love living on the secluded grounds is for horseback riding.

The family has two quarter horses and Sheree, who is a junior at Warwick High School, competes in 4-H horse competition.

For several years, the Grubes kept 12 pygmy goats on the farm to help trim the grass, but the goats kept escaping and it was hard to keep the fences repaired. Occasionally the family also raises turkeys and a few chickens for their own use.

About 1,750 acres of the original acreage remain on the Coleman estate. Three-hundred acres are planted with Christmas trees for a wholesale and retail operation. During the Christmas season, the farm offered a horse-drawn wagon ride to the fields where families chose their own tree. Sheree helped form the fresh wreaths sold on the farm.

The Grubes said that it was a family decision to be caretakers for the Mansion especially since the whole family needs to help keep the grounds in shape. Leaf cleanup is especially time consuming. When the children entered high school and wanted to become involved in sports, the family reached the joint decision that each child needed to limit their involvement to one sport a year.

"We told them we could move to a house that required less maintenance so they would have more time for sports, but the children decided that they'd rather stay living on the grounds so that they could enjoy horseback riding, three-wheeling, and motorcycle riding on the grounds," Judy said.

The history of the Coleman estate chronicles the changes in society and the use of the land, but the beauty of the remaining 1,750 acres remain unchanged.

## Social Security For Farm Women

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — What steps can a farm woman take to help ensure financial security in retirement? One important step is to build up social security eligibility, said Debra Bryant, Wayne County extension director.

Workers and self-employed individuals pay a social security tax throughout their productive years, then draw a monthly benefit after retirement until death. Farm couples who operate a farm together usually find that the husband is considered to be self-employed and the income from the farm is credited to him. The wife's work on the farm then results in no social security contribution in her name.

An exception to this rule occurs in a family partnership between husband and wife. The partnership agreement is usually written. Signs that a partnership exists include:

\* The intent of the parties to

form a partnership.

\* The contribution of all parties of land, money or services.

\* Participation in management by all parties.

\* The sharing of profits and losses.

\* Mutual agency, in which each partner can act for the other.

\* Joint liability.

For social security purposes in a husband-wife partnership, each spouse reports his or her share of the profits on separate schedules. The procedure holds even if they file their income tax returns jointly.

Another way to build the wife's social security contributions classifies the husband as a self-employed farmer. He pays his wife a salary for her farm-business work. Her social security tax as an employee will be deducted from her paycheck, and her husband, as her employer will be required to match her contribution.

Although this arrangement

decreases the income available for current use, it can have advantages in retirement.

Typically, benefits to a non-contribution spouse are lower than benefits to a contributing spouse. Paying the spouse a salary, therefore, and paying both the employee's and the employer's contributions can result in higher retirement benefits for the couple than if the retirement benefits are based solely on the earning of the self-employed farmer. In addition, the spouse could be eligible for benefits in case of disability.



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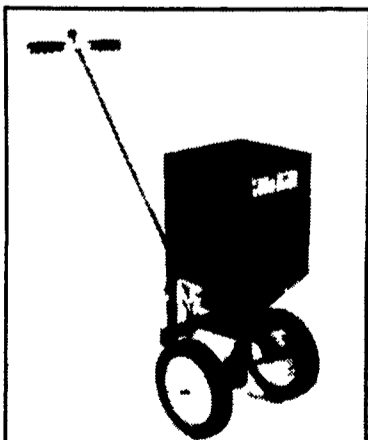
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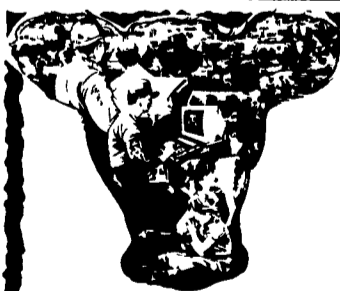
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