

Hoffmans Retire

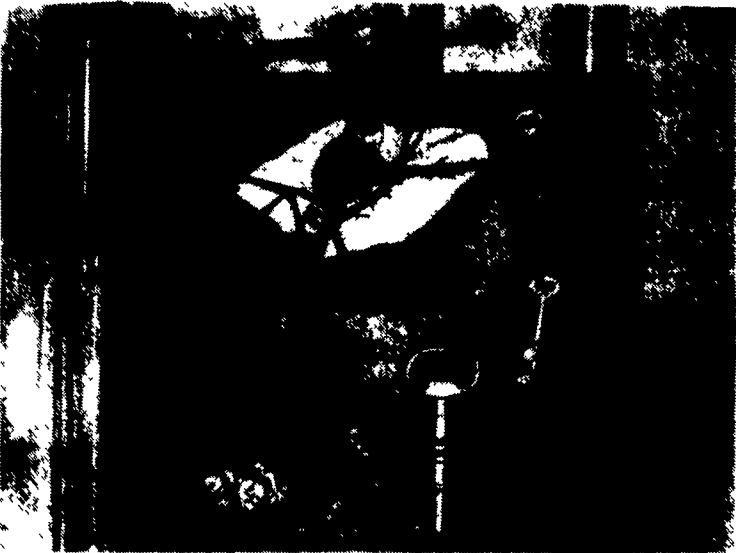
(Continued from Page B2)

the homes of their 9 children. And Wayne makes frames for nearly all Mary's oil paintings.

Much of Mary and Wayne's time at home is spent in what they refer to as the "playroom," a sun-porch they added 12 years ago to their stone farm home. Wayne built the addition, partly of field stone which the Hoffmans gathered from the fields and cut themselves.

A focal point of the stone wall which backs the woodstove is an arrowhead-shaped stone long ago found by Wayne as he worked the fields and saved for just such a project.

In addition to the painting and woodworking projects under way in the "playroom," the bright, sunny area will soon be filled with a quilt frame. The quilt is the annual



The rathole key holder is a whimsical marriage of Mary's painting with Wayne's woodworking. Toothmarks remain on this piece of old granary board riddled by rats; Mary painted a family of raccoons peeking through the holes.

fund-raising project of the York county Society of Farm Women, an organization Mary first attended as a child.

Her mother became a charter member of York Society Group 1 in 1930, with Mary often accompanying her to meetings. After marrying Wayne, she joined Group 4, in which his mother had been a charter member, and to which Mary has now belonged for 50 years. In 1975-76, she was the York County Society president, and she is currently a state Farm Women director.

Though they both enjoy visiting area craft shows for ideas, the Hoffmans have no plans to take their artwork on the show circuit.

"We sell enough things to support our 'habit'," figures Mary. "If we had to keep producing enough to take to shows, it would take the

fun out of it."

"And when you have 15 grandchildren, it takes a lot of 'give-aways,'" Wayne says with a grin. He and Mary take obvious great pleasure in sharing their skills with the family.

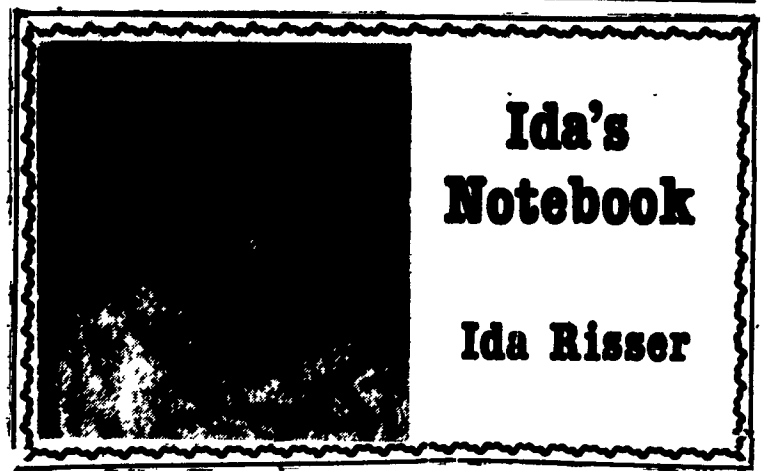
Seven of the nine children live nearby, while one son is in Illinois and a daughter lives in North Carolina. Children and grandchildren, ages 3 to 24, come home frequently, and especially enjoy warm weather family campouts at the Hoffman's camping and picnic spot along the Conewago. Their son, Mike, farms the land and runs beef cattle in the pasture where the family's Hereford cow-calf herd once grazed.

A love of the land and closeness to their family is reflected in the optimistic outlook shared by the Hoffmans.

"There are always two sides to every story — you could say we went to housekeeping with old homemade things or that we had handcrafted antiques," she observes.

Such appreciation for hand-crafting is apparent throughout the Hoffman home, from the hand-carved loon on the porch to the delicately-stitched quilts in the bedrooms, where more of Mary's paintings brighten the walls.

Especially interested in sharing her love for painting, Mary invites other artists to become members of the Keystone Painters. For information, she may be contacted at 6331 Salem Run Road, Dover, PA, 17315, or phone (717) 292-3724.



Health is such an important thing. When I talk to my children I hear about all the ear infections and colds that the grandchildren have. And, when we talk to our brothers and sisters, we hear about their ailments as they grow older.

Yet despite these things, most people keep on with their usual schedules. The children go to school and the adults go to work. Going for a physical is not one of my favorite things. But, we are told that we should take precautions. Sometimes it seems that older people have no social life except their many visits to the office of their doctor. I definitely shy away from this activity.

Despite complaints our family keeps traveling. One child goes to Texas and another goes to the West Coast in the same week. I never know where my children are

on a given day.

My parents knew where their six children were as for many years they all lived in Lancaster County. And, we often visited our former home after we were married. Now our children will only be able to visit us over holidays as they live so far away.

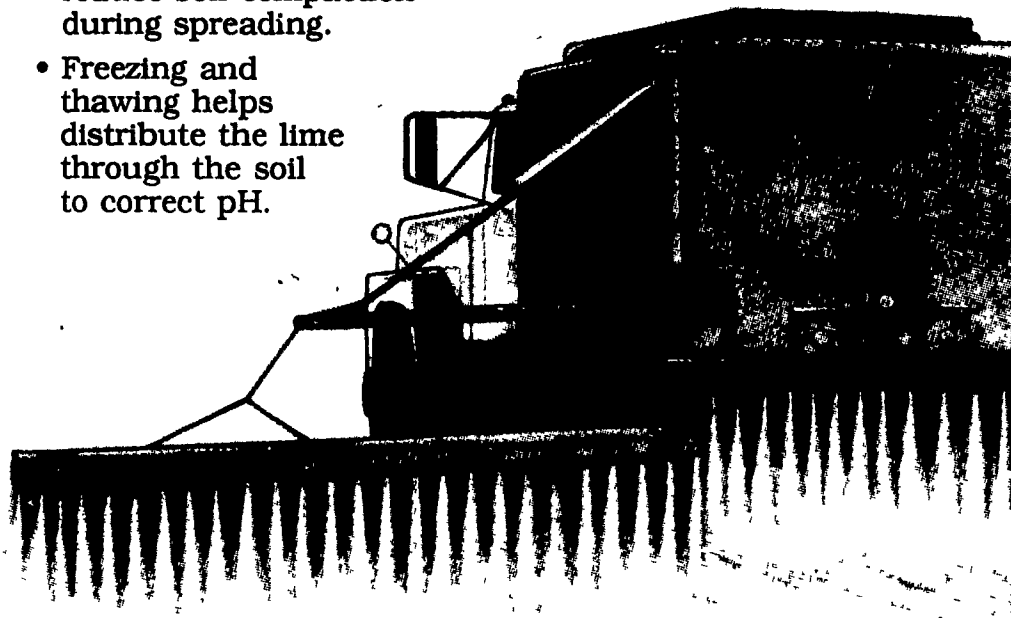
At least we have the telephone to help us keep in touch. My parents had no phone for many years but when they finally got one, my mother found that she really liked it. She had a great fear of using one and she passed this fear on to me so that when I was a student at the Lancaster Business College, I found it difficult to understand a phone conversation — I was SO nervous. Now I too use the telephone every day to keep in touch with our family.



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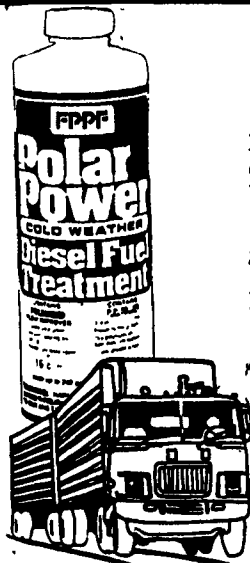


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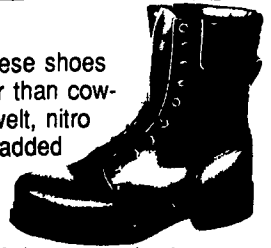
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