



Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

Years ago when our oldest grandchild was younger, his mother and I took him to the North Museum in Lancaster where they had a "hands-on room". He enjoyed being able to handle everything he saw and not just look through a glass case at rocks and

animals.

Today there is a hands-on "house" north of Lancaster that contains everything you could think of to entertain your child. My mother often told me that she had 50 first cousins, but I think she was a few shy of that number

— I have only two. Anyway, this hands-on house was the home of her cousin, Pierce Landis. I visited there with my parents when Pierce, Sarah, and Bessie lived there.

This house now is a children's museum and is noisy and bright. The entry of the early 1900s house has a video camera and television monitor so that you can see yourself on TV. One room has a large tree with animals in it and a forest area where you can hunt birds and insects. When I went there recently with our grandchildren from Atlanta, they really liked the "Under Construction" room where they could climb a ladder and wear a hard hat while hammering and laying bricks.

There was a post office and a corner grocery too. Here they sorted letters and in the store bought all kinds of plastic fruits and vege-

tables. One area stressed how our bodies develop and grow. Another room allowed the children to study facial expressions and here they could paint their faces.

Children and parents can enjoy the exhibits together. What would the Pierce Landis family, who never had children, think of their house now?

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