



Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

We will surely have a late garden this year. The Conestoga River overflowed its banks several times this spring. Our biggest garden has a southern slope but even

so it was too wet to rototill when we usually do it.

In order to keep myself busy, I went through an old diary page by

page and copied items of interest to each child. When I was finished, I had eight pages of very tiny writing for the children. I've always felt that we have well-behaved young ones but the six- and nine-year-olds did do some mischievous things.

One day these two boys started a fire with sticks in our front yard. Another time they got in the pen with the calves and roped them and tied their legs together. Their clothes were so covered with manure that I gave each of them a bucket of water and ordered them to wash their own jeans. The youngest boy even had a bloody head from falling against a stone wall in the barn and he did not

even know it.

Sometimes they ran through the fields and lost their rubbers. One day, in order to show-off for company, the oldest wearing his good clothes, rode a pig. They wrestled continually and almost drove me crazy as we had three other children at that time.

But, they did a lot of work for their father. They brought the cows from the meadow and tied them. They helped to bale hay and unload it too. One day when they

fed the cows, 150 bales tumbled from the pile. With their sisters help, the yard got mowed also.

In the summer they went boating up stream to the Cocalico Creek and they went fishing and caught fish. In the winter they ice skated on our ponds in the meadow and saw big goldfish under the ice. A big hill in another meadow was used for sledding.

Now they are grown men with a lot of responsibilities.

Become Master Food Preserver

SCRANTON (Lackawanna Co.) — Would you like to develop expertise in food preservation and share your knowledge with others? The Penn State Cooperative Extension is launching a Master Food Preserver Program in selected counties this year to provide interested persons with in-depth instruction in food preservation.

This course involves 20 hours of training and covers boiling water and pressure canning, the making of jams and jellies, pickling and fermenting food, and freezing. Taught in part by Luzerne County Extension agent Mary Ehret, the course includes lectures, demonstrations, first-hand experiences, and group discussions.

Each participant will receive

food preservation resource materials and must pass accreditation exams before being certified as a Master Food Preserver.

Graduates are asked to volunteer 30 hours this summer and fall promoting safe food preservation practices in their communities. This commitment can be fulfilled by answering telephone questions, helping beginning canners, and providing information at farmer's markets, fairs, and shopping centers.

This course will be taught May 3 through May 6. Participants must apply by April 21. For more information and an application form, contact Kristen Corselius in the Lackawanna County Extension Office at 963-6842.

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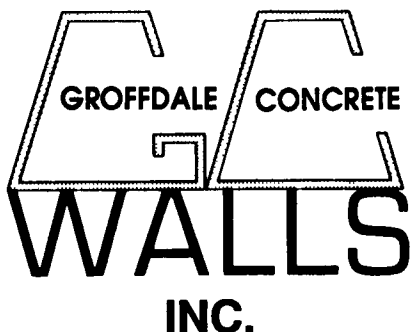
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