



Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

that reached to our ankles.

My mother usually roasted one of our free-range turkeys and invited our grandparents for dinner. My grandfather would always ask me to get him the tail of the turkey as that was his favorite piece.

Our stockings usually contained an orange and some hard candy. The tree in our front room was a small cedar tree that my father chopped from the same meadow where we now live in our log house. The short needles were very prickly but we decorated it with balls and paper chains which we colored and then glued together. The door was decorated with a collapsible red paper bell that had faded.

The highlight of the season was not the one toy that I received but rather the children's program at church. Would I remember my piece and would my younger sis-

ters say their recitations? Some did remember and some did not. When the program was over, we marched down a back stairway and got a big orange and a box of chocolate candy. It was almost impossible to keep the box shut as we were driven home in our 1923 Overland car.

Today our grandchildren rip open box after box of gifts. Their many toys are quickly scattered everywhere. I think it would be hard to appreciate such abundance. My parents did the best that they could for their seven girls during the depression and we survived.

Here I sit on a sunny Monday morning in a quiet house, trying to remember Christmas long ago when I was a child. One thing that I know for sure it did not resemble in the least the Christmas that our grandchildren have this year. My sisters and I hung up long, brown cotton stockings along a

chair-rail near our large black wood burning stove in the kitchen. We only lived in one of the 12 rooms in the farmhouse in wintertime. Although on Sunday the round parlor stove was used, and we were allowed to bring our clothes downstairs and dress nearby. We wore heavy underwear

Better Kid Care Kit

EBENSBURG (Cambria Co.) — A free learn-at-home kit on quality child care is available from Penn State Cooperative Extension for people who care for other people's children. The Better Kid Care kit has ideas for games, art activities, play, snacks, safety tips, and suggestions for working with parents. Caregivers will also receive six issues of Caring For

Kids, a newsletter for child care providers. Caring for Kids contains even more ideas on caring for children and suggestions to make your day easier.

To receive a free Better Kid Care kit, caregivers should call 1-800-452-9108. Parents can enroll their child's caregiver by calling the same number.



In the tradition of Christmas cheer, we'd like to extend our sincere thanks for your friendship this past year. May your season abound with love.



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