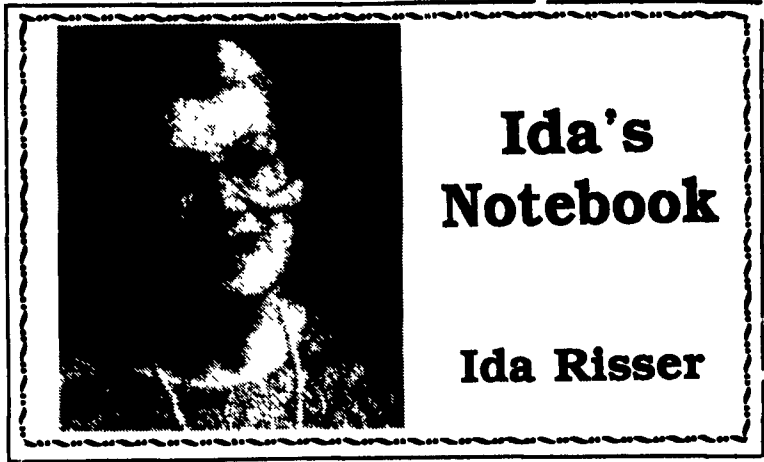


Five Senses Tour For School Children



Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

While others have had to brave the roads during the recent ice storm, I've been able to simply look out the window and enjoy the scenery. While inside my bay windows are full of flowering plants. The impatiens and begonias are bright pink while the kalanchoe have many orange blossoms. Among my Christmas presents were two large poinsettia. The one is in a hanging basket and I'll try to keep it blooming all winter.

Two of the grandchildren sent me a large gourd that is shellacked and is to be used as a birdhouse. Another gift was a big box of scented drawer lining paper. Because I'm confined to the house there has been plenty of time to use it. Why, I even discovered some things that I'd forgotten that I had. One was cardboard with pretty, old buttons sewn on them. Another was a toy dog that an aunt made when she was 92 years old.

And, a number of embroidered pillowcases that I made a while ago.

One son gave us a big box of tapes that cover the lives of his three children from their babyhood to the present day. It is interesting to see them decorate their Christmas tree, hunt Easter eggs, blow out candles on a birthday cake or spend a few days at the seashore. Our daughter sewed an apron for me and it is large enough to completely cover a dress. One child gave a gift certificate to buy a pair of shoes but shopping is not a job that I like even if it is necessary.

INTERCOURSE (Lancaster Co.) — The sights, sounds, smells, touches, and tastes of Kitchen Kettle Village provide the ideal setting for children in kindergarten through second grade to learn about the senses that tell them about their world.

Once again the village of more than 30 shopkeepers will offer Five-Senses Tours to area school groups, scouts, and other organizations. The innovative tours will be held from January through March on a daily basis, Monday through Friday.

Lynne Trout, organizer of the tours, says that children enjoy the learning experience especially when it's fun. She guides each group of students throughout the village, stopping in shops such as the Leather Shop, Bratton's

Woodcrafts, the Jam and Jelly Kitchen, and the Bake Shop.

"At the Leather Shop, for instance, the smell of fresh leather fills the shop. Children are encouraged to feel the different types of leathers," she says.

Each child then gets a small leather gift as a token of their visit, as they do at many of the other participating shops.

The Jam and Jelly Kitchen and Bake Shop offer special tastes that the students always savor, notes Mrs. Trout. She lets each child taste a jam or jelly to see if they can guess what it is. They also get to experience the sweet aroma of jams cooking in big kettles, cookies baking in the oven, and fresh loaves of bread as they cool.

"Many of the shops take part in the Five-Senses Tours," says Mrs. Trout, noting that most of the students come from Lancaster County, Chester County, Delaware, and

surrounding areas. Demand from schools has been so high that another daily tour has been added to the schedule.

After each Five-Senses Tour, children enjoy free hot cocoa and cookies. They also receive a poster that they can color to enter in a free drawing to have "Breakfast with Yummie," the village gingerbread costumed character.

"The Five-Senses Tour is becoming a tradition for school children throughout the area," says Mrs. Trout, "They love it."

Kitchen Kettle Village is a gathering of 30 shops and eateries. It is located 10 miles east of Lancaster and 30 miles west of Exton on Route 340. Admission and parking are free.

For further information on the Five-Senses Tours, or to find out more about Kitchen Kettle Village, please call 1-800-732-3538.

Since my car is covered with ice and we can't go to a planned party at church, I'll bake a loaf of cranberry bread as I just saw a recipe that I want to try.

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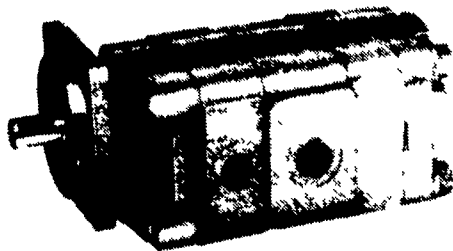
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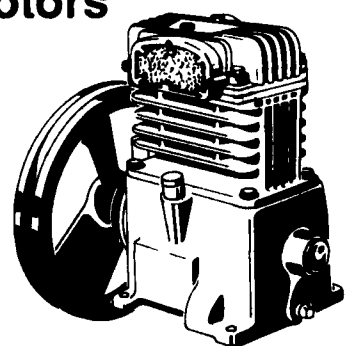
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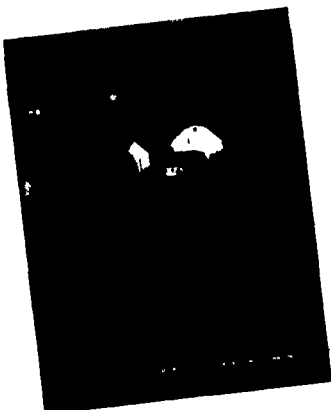


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