

# Ida's Notebook

**Ida Risser** 

As time goes by we tend to look back on years past. And so it was on a recent Sunday afternoon, as I and some of my sisters got together, that we reminisced. Most of us have been married about 40 years and so we had a lot to talk about.

As I save everything, I had brought with me letters that they wrote to me in the 1970s and returned them to the writers. You see, I'm still going through boxes that I left in the farmhouse attic. They like to reread them as it is very much like a diary. They can

relive the years when their children were young and had slumber parties. And, they can remember all of the traveling that they did in taking them to athletic events.

There was one item that a sister gave me that I really appreciate. It was a June 22, 1900 copy of "The Lititz Express." It contains not only news of the day but also many advertisements. Some of these are for clothes, coal, wood and groceries. But, most of them are for medicines to improve your health.

But, the one piece of news that

is of interest to our family in the newspaper was the account of my grandfather's tragic death. It seems that as he was returning from delivering a load of wheat to a mill in Lancaster, he drove his team of four horses across a railroad crossing just as a train approached. He was killed as were

two of his horses.

I find it odd to read that three of his brothers were in the crowd that gathered. He was only 51 years old and the paper says that some 3,000 people attended the service at Landis Valley. He had 11 brothers and sisters but surely a lot of curious people must also have

come to the funeral.

If someone before me had not also saved things, we would not know these facts. Of course, my mother who was only five years old at the time, often told of the bananas that were found in the wagon for her as they were her favor. ite fruit.

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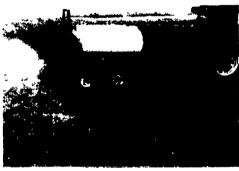
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