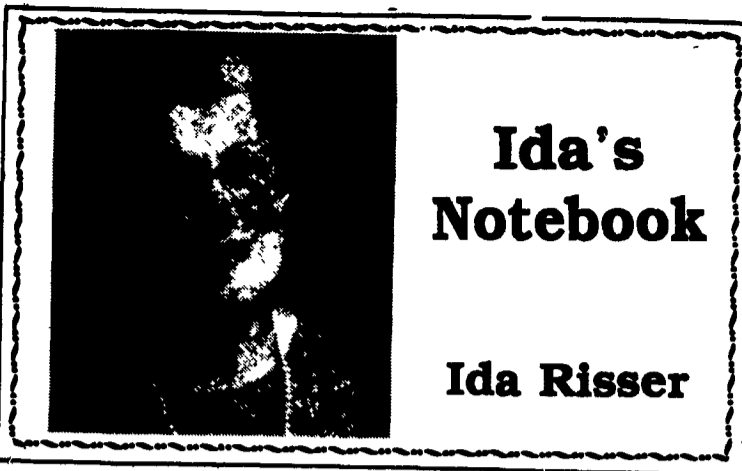


Farmers Select Ag Day Baby



In recognition of National Ag Day on March 20, the Lancaster County Farmers Association bestowed a basket of locally-grown and processed products to the first baby born at Lancaster General Hospital on that day. Brandon Michael, son of Anne and Greg Schuman of Pequea, weighed in 8 pounds 7 ounces. Another son 4-year-old Ryan is eager to help devour the goodies presented by Ruth Ann Yost, left, and Bonnie Rohrer, co-chairwomen of the women's committee of the Farmers Association.



Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

Auctions can be addictive as once you start going you often keep on going most every Saturday. Lancaster County has several Auction Centers and many auctioneers.

In the first few years after I was married, I went to quite a few sales in the neighborhood. It was a necessity as we needed so many things to start housekeeping. The walnut drop-leaf table that I bought for our dining room is now in our kitchen as in later years an aunt gave a large oak extension table. Many of my end tables are still in use even though I got them long ago. Then there are odd lamps and dishes that came from local auctions. As there were no cabinets in our kitchen we got a Hoosier kitchen cabinet which we later sold too cheaply. It had a flour bin and sifter, spice rack, and a pull-out counter top.

One day I sat on a porch railing for hours to buy a wrought iron candle stand and a hanging wall mirror with towel bars. It was intricately carved and even had a

cow that was missing an ear. So, I carved one out of an old shingle to match the other and you'd never know.

Local sales are often social gatherings and you can go home in a good mood even if you bought nothing. The good food that is sold there is also an attraction. They say there is an art to bidding and I have missed a few things that I wanted. It takes close attention to what is being said or you might buy one chair for the price you expected to pay for six of them. And, when you get a box-lot there can be surprises — buttons, cups, caps, yarn or even a sterling silver spoon.

Sometimes auctions are sad affairs as all the collections of a lifetime are spread out for the world to see. But as years go by, it is often necessary to dispose of household items, especially if there are no children who want the things. Even so, there will be lots of merchandise to sell as I have found out when I helped to empty three houses for relatives.

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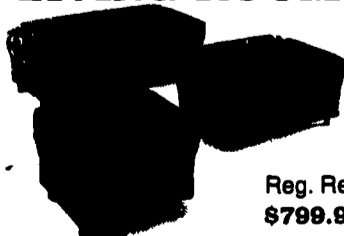
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