

Lebanon Farm Women



Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

Just a few more notes on our recent trip to Massachusetts and Maine. Quite often our breakfast was eaten in the lobby of the hotel where we stayed overnight. Doughnuts and coffee are not a breakfast to eat if you do not want to gain a few pounds. I've been able to lose 15 pounds this summer.

On our next to the last day we had a guided tour of Portland which is Maine's largest city. It was destroyed three times but always rebuilt. Our bus traveled to the Portland Head Light, one of the oldest lighthouses in continued use in the United States.

We were given time to shop and walk around on the cobblestone streets and see the old gas street lights. Allen and I spent a few hours in the biggest antique shop that I'd ever seen. It had hundreds of thousands of items both big and small. There were display cases of silverware and jewelry. And, there were large items like beds, chests and tables. It was quite interesting to check the prices of items that compared to

the few things that we have at home.

In the afternoon we drove by a Wedding Cake House, which had many decorations, on our way to see former President Bush's summer home at Kennebunkport. This town has no gas station or grocery store. The last stop of the day was a Franciscan Monastery. Here, for one dollar, you could light a candle to honor someone.

On our way home we toured Mark Twain's house in Hartford, Connecticut. This unusual 19-room Victorian house was built in 1873-74 and had bricks painted red and yellow on the outside. The last place of interest was the American Clock and Watch Museum in Bristol, Conn. Here we saw some 3,000 clocks, watches and tower clocks. Many grandfather clocks were set to strike simultaneously and we happened to arrive there at ten minutes of twelve. Some of the clocks dated back to the 1590s.

Our trip ended with a very nice family style dinner in Allentown. We were glad to be home again.

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and keep going," Helen said of her ability to maintain a healthy attitude despite disappointments.

Helen rents the land and one side of the double farmhouse to someone else, but she keeps fit by mowing the grass around the property. She also sings in her church choir and enjoys visiting her two children, four grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Marion Houtz is another 90-year-old member. An elementary school teacher for 37 years, Marion has taught some of the Farm Women members in the county. She's been a widow for 20 years.

"I stay active and the Lord's been good to me," are Marian's explanations for her longevity.

A pin was presented to Cora Dubble for reaching her 80th birthday and continuing her membership in Farm Women Society 2.

In addition to the scholarship presented to students at the state level, the Lebanon County Farm

Women also presented scholarships to countians Eric Brinser and Stacy Wampler.

Entertainment included a musical production by the Hitz children and a ventriloquist named Cindy Patches.

A memorial service was held in memory of members who passed away during the last year. These

included Hilda Balmer, Society 1; Mary Light, Society 2; Grace Hamilton, Society 3; Beulah Gockley, Society 4; Esther Boltz, Society 6; Evelyn Kline, Society 8; Mary Strickler, Society 8; Eva Fertig, Society 9; Edith Long, Society 18; and Elizabeth Long, Society 13.



These 90-year-old members Helen Deaver, left, and Elsie Fasnacht receive awards at the annual convention of the Lebanon County Society of Farm Women.

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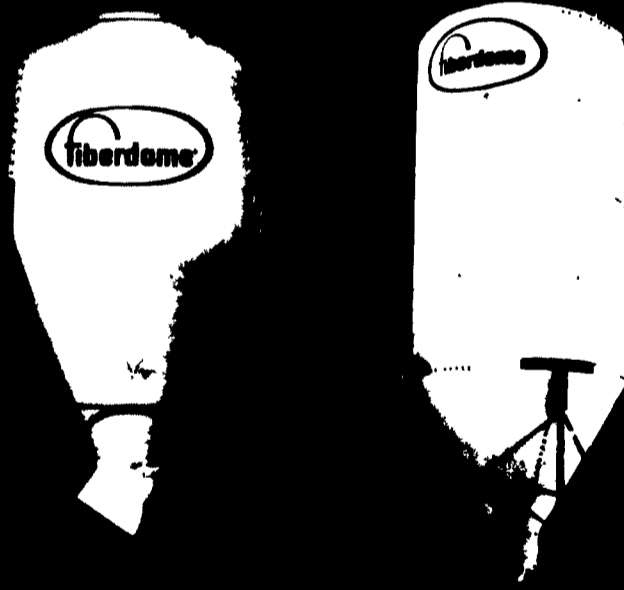


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