

Book Pictures The Story Of Women's Lives

(Continued from Page B2)

younger generation was interested in "that old stuff."

Eventually, Siegrist had numerous ring binders organized with copies of photographs that she constantly updated as she accumulated more and more material from other sources.

Surprised by the quality and the stories from her own researching of the Hess family, Siegrist transferred some old photographs to slides, which she showed at a reunion. Soon more and more families were requesting that Siegrist chronicle their family's history through a slide show.

Although called the "Picture Lady," Siegrist prefers to be known as "someone who respects the past."

Siegrist said that talking with the older generation about family photographs helps to build bridges between generations.

Siegrist said that persons usually appear solemn on photographs taken before the 1900s because slow speed film required that subjects hold absolutely still without any movement. It was easier to hold a straight face longer than a smile; hence the sober faces.

Between 1918 and 1950, fewer and poorer quality photographs were the norm. This was probably due to the result of two World Wars, the Depression, and the availability of the home box camera.

Another reason for fewer prints during the early 1900s was that some persons took a baptismal vow to avoid photographs and to burn their Victorian prints.

According to the research Siegrist found, women did not dress differently than their non-Mennonite neighbors until the 1900s when a train accident spurred a revival among the youth. In their attempt to show their devotion to God, they replaced their Victorian dress with an unprecedented uniform Mennonite plain garb.

Most people are clearly identified in the pictures. Generally, the photographs have several paragraphs written about the occasion. Aside from the fascinating stories provided through these captions, they give a teaching model for others in creating family story books.

There's the story of Christian Rohrer who purchased two square miles in Missouri which he divided with the hopes that each of his five daughters would marry a man from the Midwest and would then be given one of the farms. But parents' dreams for their children were no more likely to succeed then as now. Only one of the daughters married a man from the Midwest, two died at a young age, one never married, and another married a countian and settled in Lancaster County.

People who live in the same community the longest and have access to the most documentation usually value heirlooms the least of all people, according to Siegrist.

Siegrist compiled these pictures over a 12-year span. This is an unprecedented book holding the largest known published collection of documented photographs from 1855-1935 of Lancaster County.

Siegrist is now on a crusade to

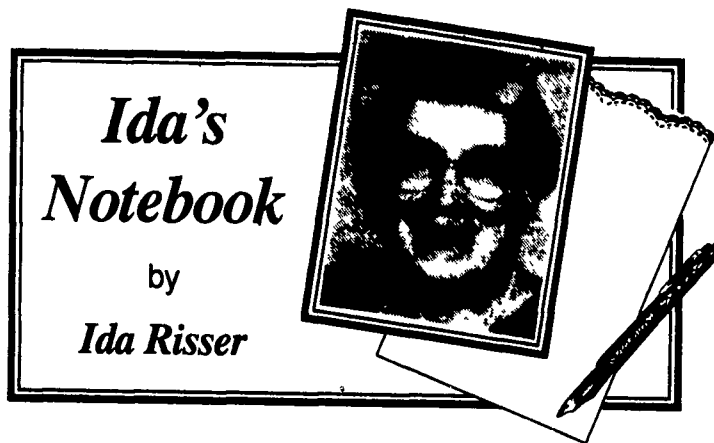
encourage others to save significant photographs and label pictures. The demand for these services caused Siegrist to launch another service. She holds workshops on gathering, documenting, and organizing heirloom photographs.

Both Siegrist and her husband, J. Donald Siegrist, M.D., grew up on Lancaster County farms. After

living in seven different places, the Siegrists now live on the same road as the family farm in Bird in Hand. The Siegrists have three sons: Marc, 18; Philip, 21; and Brent, 23, who raised and sold summer produce before they were old enough to hold down paying jobs. Siegrist has been a 4-H leader for 15 years.

The 220-page soft-cover book is published by Good Books and is available through local bookstores for \$14.95 or order by phone 1-800-762-7171.

For a listing of lectures and presentations offered by Siegrist, contact her at 457 Beechdale Rd., Bird In Hand, PA 17505.



One of the first things I do each morning is to check on the number of heavenly blue morning glories that are blooming. I've planted them each year at the base of the

crab apple tree in the backyard. They can bring a smile to my face.

Just now my yellow raspberries are giving us a second crop. They are very sweet and the birds and

the insects like them too. Allen moved our red raspberries from their spot next to the black ones as he read that they give each other diseases. Now they too have a second crop of big red berries.

This past week has turned my kitchen into a processing plant as Allen bought several bushels of fruit for me to can. And, I also have a lot of tomatoes from my garden. This year my dozen broccoli plants have been bearing very well. After I cut off the central head, many small shoots continue to come out from the plant.

My husband's rose garden seems to have its ups and downs. One time it is full of blooms and a little later I cannot find enough flowers for a bouquet. He has every color of the rainbow except blue.

Lately I've been seeing an Eastern Kingbird on the rail fence around our yard. In fact, I had to look in my bird book in order to give a name to the bird. It darts from its perch after insects in true flycatcher fashion. It is a brown-blue colored bird with white on the tips of the tail. It seems that I don't often find the time to sit and watch our little bluebirds as they feed their young.



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