

Ida's Notebook
by
Ida Risser

Lancaster County has a half dozen local fairs in the fall. We usually attend at least one parade. This year we chose the Ephrata Parade as our son designed the 75-foot ladder on

one of the fire engines. However, it passed so quickly that the

three-hour wait in 40 degrees weather hardly seemed worth the time.

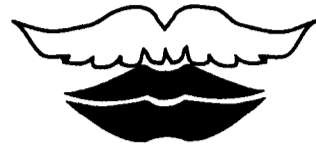
Later we drove to Columbia County on our annual visit to the Bloomsburg Fair. It was raining as we left home, but then the sky cleared in the afternoon. For a while we watched harness racing and then checked out the vegetable displays. I noticed that many pumpkins weighed 300 to 400 pounds but the biggest one was a 594 pound monster.

The 4-H and FFA displays were interesting together with many school displays. By the

time that we saw the rabbits, chickens and flowers I was ready for a bench to sit down on. The day before I had walked over half a mile to the farm with a message as someone took my car to visit a brother in the hospital. At least my son was kind enough to bring me home on his motorcycle.

Among the weeds in my garden, I still have a few vegeta-

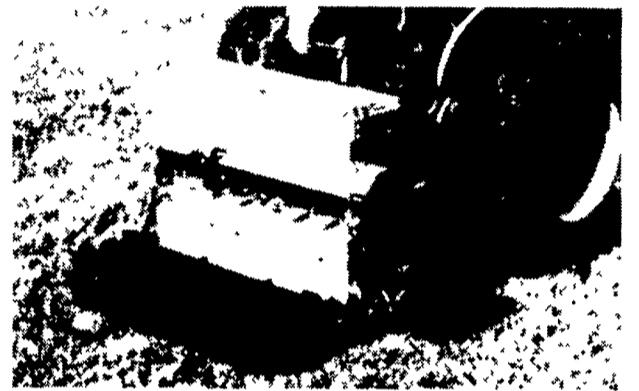
bles. There are green beans, tomatoes, red beets, Swiss chard, parsley, pumpkins, and lots of sweet potatoes. Among all of this growth, my husband noticed something unusual. It was a tiny white bird. This completely white bird was with a flock of house finch and a flock of bluebirds. Every morning we watch it and wonder to which family it belongs. Everyone wants to fit in someplace.



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