

Ida's Notebook

by

Ida Risser



the village of Benezette, we were directed to a likely area of wooded hills. After driving miles and only seeing beautiful leaves on trees, we stopped for a short walk. Actually, Philip took a long hike and we met him at the end of Little Bear Run trail. He saw a grouse, an owl, two deer and a wild turkey on his journey.

We were told that around 6 o'clock in the evening was the best time to see some elk. The first group that we saw consisted of nine elk on a distant hill. Then we drove to an overlook where a group of people watched six elk grazing. One man had

been to Elk County 14 times and never saw any — he left ten minutes before they came out of the woods.

By coincidence our evening meal was shared with two men who were very interested in the elk herd. One of them told us that he knew each one by name and there are more than 300 of them. He also grew up in the same area as my husband did, and so they knew many people in common. The other was a well-known photographer and scuba diving instructor who has traveled worldwide in his work.

Some hunting cabins had ordinary names such as "Camp Hemlock" and "Camp Wildlife." Others that we saw were "Camp Ain't Much," "Camp Quit Your Bellyaching," "Camp No Buck" and "Camp Gobbler's Roost."

One day we saw the almost one-half-mile-long Kinzua railroad bridge which was built in 1882 by 40 men in 90 days. It was 301 feet off the forest floor and we could walk across it. Can you imagine such a big job being completed today in 90 days? My husband said that it would take 40 men just to inspect it.

The other weekend we traveled with our son Philip, to northwestern Pennsylvania.

Our mission was to see some elk in the wild.

When we finally arrived at

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