

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



Do you sometimes feel as though the calendar runs your life? Some weeks are very busy and then there will be several days that are blank. Many appointments seem to bump into each other.

Maybe a concert is scheduled for one night and then a travelogue is the following night. As we've purchased tickets, we feel that we should go to the entertainment. The next day we have two invitations for meals — that is too much for one day.

However, we do manage to plant our garden. At least the onions, radishes, and sugar peas are planted. At one time, I planted six pounds of peas but now one-half a pound is enough for us. Years ago many peas and strawberries were sold to neighbors in a nearby development. It was a good way to

keep in touch with folks who lived in our area.

Our church has a group of women who always make a meal for families after a funeral. This takes a lot of planning and telephoning. However, people do appreciate the effort and that makes it all worthwhile. I've helped by contributing food as have many others.

On a recent Sunday morning, we got a phone call that really upset us. We were told that our oldest grandson was in a hospital in Florida. He and four of his friends had been in a serious car accident where the car rolled over and over. One boy did not wear a seat belt and he ended up under the car. Our grandson was very lucky and ended up with several broken ribs and a collapsed lung. Those are the times when prayers help.



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Gouge Family Documents Rich, Colorful History

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be heard brings enthusiasts from several surrounding states.

"A lot of guys are no longer farming, but they kept their father's or their grandfather's tractors and the show offers them an annual opportunity to show off their stuff," Gouge said.

Two years ago, when John's parents went to a nursing home, the family sold one of its farm. Gouge retained the house and 62 acres. The family lives in a two-

story salt-box style home that is known to date back to 1750. The house is a showcase for antiques, agateware in all colors and styles, old dippers, and other items, which Susie has collected over the years.

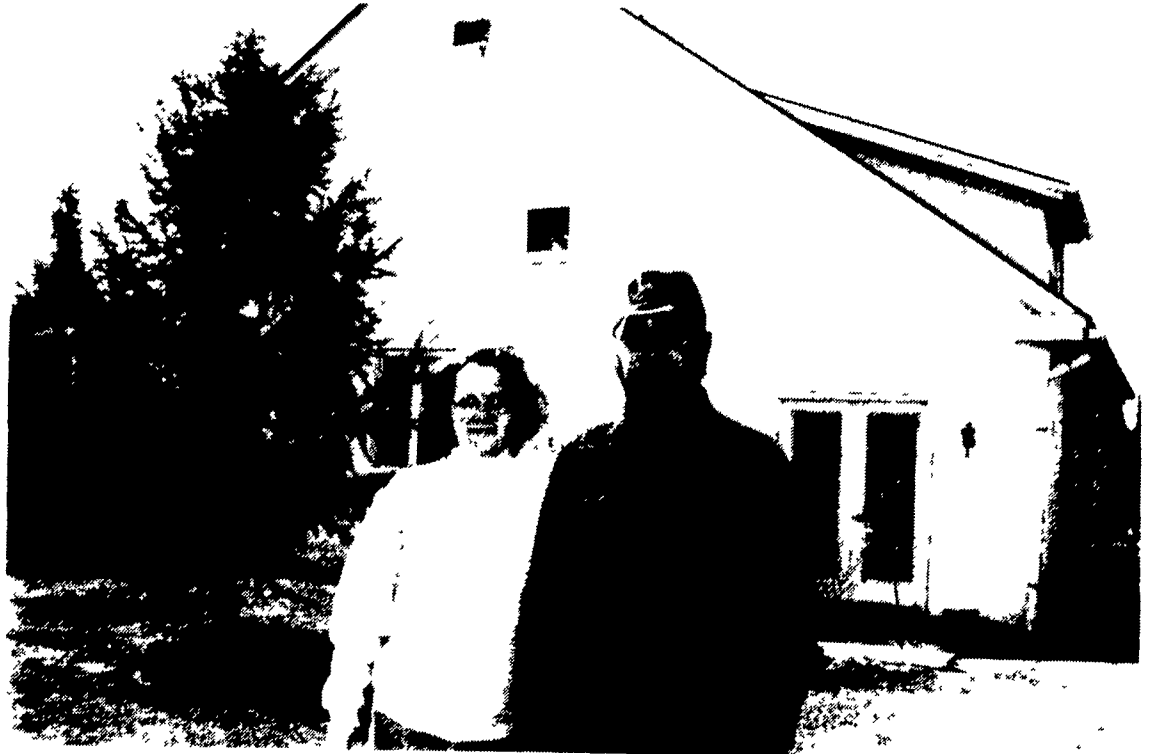
The horse-hair plastered walls have been stenciled by Susie. She works full time, but finds time to sew and attend auctions in search of antiques and collectibles.

The Gouge home permeates with historical significance, both

in its architectural lines and in the pieces that fill the rooms. But the parents are most pleased that their three daughters value their heritage.

It's a story that no amount of urban sprawl will destroy. A story that will continue to be updated with photographs, news clippings, and family tales.

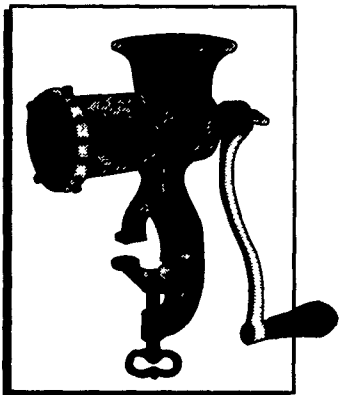
"Maybe my next job will be a journalist. I'm thinking of writing a book," Gouge said.



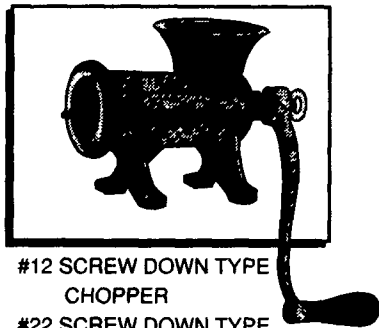
John Gouge stands with his daughter Laura at the side of the two-story salt-box style home, which dates further back than 1750.

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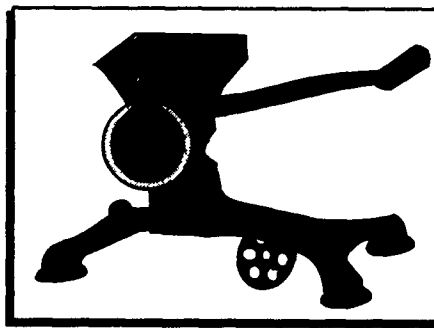
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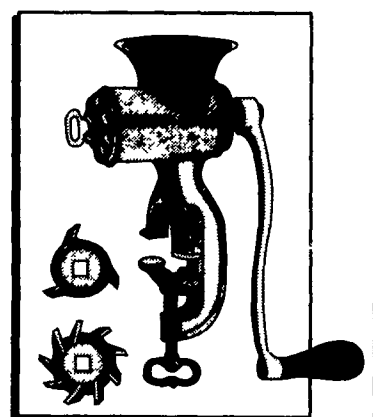
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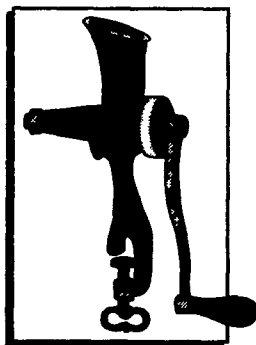
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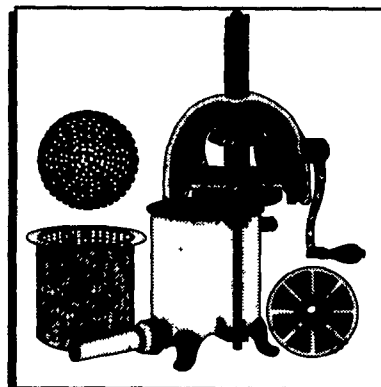
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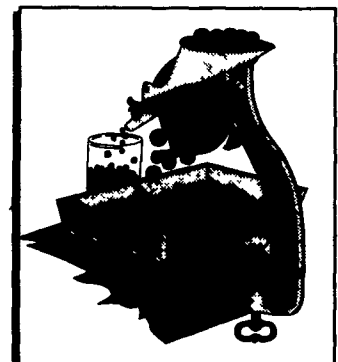
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