

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



Summer seems to be the time for reunions. Some are big and some are small. Our family started to have a gathering of about 15 people 50 years ago. This number has now grown to be nearer 70, but only a small number still attend our annual picnic. They are simply too scattered and reach from California to Vermont.

Our first celebrations were in

honor of birthdays and took place each year in our meadow along the Conestoga River. At that time, there were many trees along the banks and the sheep kept the grass quite short. Now the floods of recent years have washed the big trees away and the banks are muddy. We children always enjoyed the fire that our father made in the fireplace. These days we meet in a public

park and have many conveniences.

My husband's family recently had a big reunion with several hundred in a school. He and three other people spent months preparing for the event. One of the members even had a book on the genealogy of the "Kraybill" family printed after many, many hours of work.

Mugs were sold that had the family crest printed on them and many old pictures were displayed. Long ago a picture was taken of a family reunion and an aunt put a number on each of the hundred some people shown and then named each one on the back of the picture.

I really doubt that today anyone could identify each of the hundreds pictured at a reunion. It seems that we are so busy with our own immediate families that we lose touch with the larger family unless someone takes the trouble to organize a reunion.



During Bug Camp, a group of Milton Hershey School (MHS) elementary school students took an up-close look at some honeybees at work in the campus bee yard. The children assisted Agricultural and Environmental Education (AEE) Instructional Advisor Scott Seibert, AEE student interns Joe Toole and Al-Zahraa Hbailu, and Honey Crest Farm owner and operator Stuart Mathias as they extracted honey from the hive and processed it for human consumption. The camp was made available to students through the School's Summer of Opportunities Program (SOP). The 10-week SOP offers a variety of week-long camps to students, providing them with personal enrichment, recreational fun, academic preparedness, and career awareness.

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The few remaining dog-eared copies became a prized fisherman's possession. Professor Higbee was offered \$400 for one of his last maps. And state agencies were forced to keep their copies under lock and key.

Experts told Professor Higbee that reprints were impossible, because the maps were printed in non-photographic blue.

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