

Marietta Holiday House Tour With A Difference

Marietta is celebrating its Millennium Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes this year on Sunday, Dec. 3. It promises to be extra special this year in a town that is proud of its difference.

For one thing, it is an Historic Tour. More than 50 percent of the town is in a National Historic District. The tour was conceived in 1962 as a way of showcasing the town's preservation efforts and continues to highlight the diversity of architectural styles and eras. From stately Federals to quaint Victorians, from brick row homes and humble log cabins to grand stone mansions, Marietta is a feast for the eyes.

The history continues inside the homes with antique furnishings and family heirlooms. It is seen in the public buildings on display, especially the Old Town Hall Museum, where Marietta's past as a 19th century industrial town is presented, and in the Borough Hall, restored to its former glory with the original town

benches. Other public buildings are open to mark the town's civic pride, as well as the UCC Church which celebrates the Millennium with its 100th anniversary.

Another difference is that Marietta's Tour is a walking tour. Visitors can stroll from one site to the next, enjoying the decorations throughout the town without driving miles to the next house. A free shuttle bus is available, but the tour is concentrated within a reasonable walking distance.

Marietta Restoration Associates, which sponsors the tour, also sponsors an Annual House Decorating Contest. Residents get involved in the spirit of times past as they decorate outside for visitors. Tourgoers will note the ribbons on the winning homes as they listen to strolling Victorian Carolers along the way.

That leads to the next difference — The Marietta Tour offers a personal glimpse of holiday

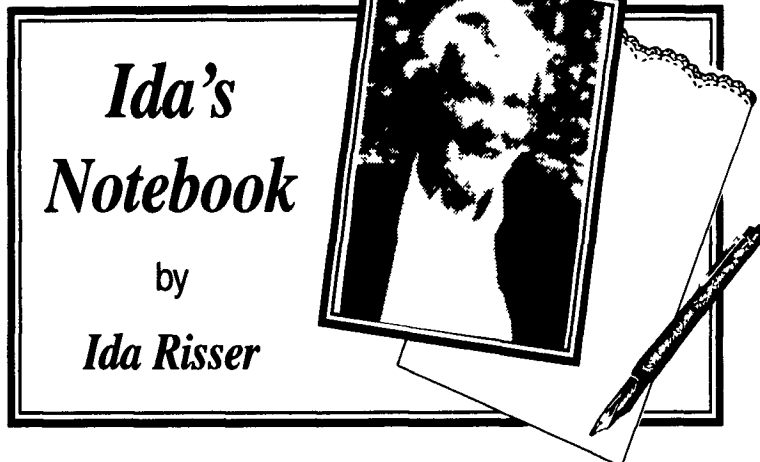
decorations, furnishings, and restoration efforts of individual home owners. These individuals are willing to share their decorating ideas and restoration tips with tourgoers.

The Antiques Show and Sale delights visitors with a wide array of collectibles.

The Community House offers a Millennium display of the lumber industry with guest speakers whose family ancestors were prominent in this area, when lumber floated down the Susquehanna River to rest on Marietta's shores.

Many visitors stay all day — from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. All events are open to tourgoers for the price of their ticket — \$10 in advance, \$12 the day of the tour.

For more information, call (717) 426-3056 or (717) 426-1229, or write MRA, P.O. Box 3, Marietta, Pa. 17547. Parking and tickets are available the day of the tour at Donegal Middle School and Riverview Elementary School.



You will be reading this two days after Thanksgiving, but I am writing it 10 days before Thanksgiving on a dismal rainy morning. So, I really don't know how that particular weekend will turn out.

I am preparing for 20 members of our family. I've bought a 22-pound turkey and hope it will fit in my blue agate roasting pan. We had to get extra boards from storage for the oval, oak table and the rectangular walnut one. More chairs had to be brought down our pull-down stairs and up from our recreation room. It might take two white tablecloths to cover the elongated oak table.

Several of our children have offered to bring some food. I'll have the turkey, pumpkin pies, lots of mashed potatoes and three vegetables to make. At least my house is in order as I had my Bible Study group meet here last week. There again I

had to put extra chairs in the living room. Many members say their homes are too small for our group to meet in them.

We had a large group gather at our church for a pot luck supper recently. It seems that food is one way to get a good attendance at a meeting. Different people are known for a particular dish. My friends usually ask if I've brought my baked corn. The recipe is from an old cookbook that is falling apart. No wonder, as it was a wedding present from more than 50 years ago.

Many people from our area and beyond enjoy a monthly travelogue with us at Lititz. The Rotary Club has been sponsoring this entertainment for 38 years. It is a way to travel all over the world without getting a passport. Many retirement communities take advantage of the films and bus their residents to Lititz.

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