

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



Recently, I got a phone call from a man who wants to have a bed and breakfast in the house where my grandparents lived. He

wants the house and furnishings to be authentic. When I think back to the house, as I remember it as a child, I doubt that he really wants authenticity.

It was a dark house which has since been remodeled. Windows have been added and several partitions removed. Instead of a closed staircase, it is now an open one and bathrooms have been added.

My grandfather owned one of the first radios, and to hear it we had to wear earphones. Therefore, only one person at a time could listen to it. There was

a very ornate pump organ in a small back room and my great aunt could really play it and sing along.

There was a front parlor with a large phonograph. We children liked to hear the music that came from the revolving discs. But we did not like the loud noise from the cream separator that was in a back kitchen. It was powered by wires from a small windmill.

There was a large room over the kitchen where the boys and hired man slept. There was no heat in the house other than the big black kitchen stove. Two bed-

rooms were never used unless cousins came to visit. Some bedroom suites remained almost new and I inherited two of them.

Every morning my aunt swept the rag carpet in the kitchen. First she scattered wet coffee grounds on the floor and then she swept them up. I believe this was to "keep down" the dust. On Tuesday, she sold flowers at the Central Market in Lancaster. The gladiolas were stored in big white crocks in the summer house overnight. She was my special aunt as she always had a supply of candy, cookies, and raisins to give me.

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