

**Ida's  
Notebook**  
by  
**Ida Risser**



For more than 25 years, I've spent my Monday mornings phoning auctioneers for prices for "Sales Reports" in Lancaster

*Farming* newspaper. I've enjoyed the work, but have decided to let someone else do the job. I'm sure that I will find plenty to do to keep me busy. For one thing, there are 10 different kinds of flower bulbs in the basement waiting to be planted. And, there are still some 90 flower plants in the house to be watered regularly.

When the grandchildren come in the evening, we play games and I'm amazed at their enthusiasm and speed. It tells me how much I have slowed down. They run and jump as we play games

and I'm afraid they will slip on rugs on the hardwood floors. It is surprising to see how many places we can find to hide. One even sat behind closed doors on top of the washing machine.

Our Easter was spent in New Jersey with our oldest daughter and her family. Our oldest son, Kenneth, came with his family from Delaware. Their daughter goes to college in Richmond, Va. where they lived last year. We all relaxed and talked on their large screened-in porch overlooking the swimming pool. Our son-in-law left at 5:30 the next morning on a business trip to London.

The other day I was really upset as my husband sawed down a big, old crab apple tree. As the top was dead, I feared it might someday fall on the house. But, instead of taking off the dead part, he cut down the whole tree. And, where did it fall — on top of my beautiful new iris bed.

This isn't the first time that he surprised me. Last fall, as I peeled pears for canning, I mentioned that they were difficult to peel and wished they were Bartlett instead of Bosch. So, he got one of his three chain saws and cut down the young tree that was full of pears.

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