

## Ida's Notebook

by  
Ida Risser



We've been traveling. A one-day trip to Washington, D.C. took us to the National Zoo where we saw the famed giant pandas.

The whole afternoon was ours

to roam the hilly area on a hot day. We saw elephants, giraffes and a rhinoceros.

One of the most interesting places was "Amazonia." Here they had a tropical forest with

birds and also tanks of giant catfish. We walked and walked while many other couples our age sat in the shade and waited for the bus to come.

Earlier in the morning we toured the National Postal Museum next to Union Station. Even the train station was impressive with its high vaulted ceiling. The lower level had many types of food stands and we had lunch there. It was a good place to watch people.

The Postal Museum told the story of mail delivery in Colonial times and the Pony Express. It houses the largest collection of stamps and has more than 13 million objects. Three mail

planes were hanging from the ceiling and there was a replica of a railway mail car.

Then early the next morning Allen and I headed for Atlanta, Georgia with a load of finely planed cherry boards for our son to use in his house. We also have a daughter living in the area so we visited both of them for a week.

As the trip was 1,600 miles we made it in two days each way. There were lots of stops at rest areas along the highway. You never saw as many big, big trucks as we saw along Route 81. Often the posted speed limits was 70 miles per hour.

On the way we stopped at Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North

Carolina to see the 250-room house of George Vanderbilt. His first forester was Gifford Pinchot who later became the Governor of Pennsylvania. It took hundreds of workers five years to complete the house in the late 1800s. We also took a self-guided tour of their winery and azalea gardens.

## Fiddle, Acoustic Music Mini Fest

WYOMISSING (Berks Co.) — Stroll on down to the Berks County Heritage Center to enjoy some toe-tapping, foot-stompin' fiddle music on Sun., June 3, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Various acoustic instruments, including banjos and fiddles, will join together for the 19th annual Fiddle and Acoustic Music Mini-Fest sponsored by the James E. Fegley Violin Shop, CD Exchange and the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department.

Spectators may simply sit back and enjoy the music, join in the musical fun and perform on the open stage, scheduled from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

A concert featuring The Gadjoo Playboys, Hot Club of France Style-Swing Band, will begin at 3 p.m. The fiddle competition will follow immediately at 4 p.m. There will be two age groups competing: students to age 15, and ages 16 to adults, with cash prizes being awarded.

Food and refreshments will be available and a \$2 parking fee will be collected. Visitors are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets and their favorite instrument.

The C. Howard Hiester Canal Center and the Gruber Wagon Works will be open for tours on Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m.

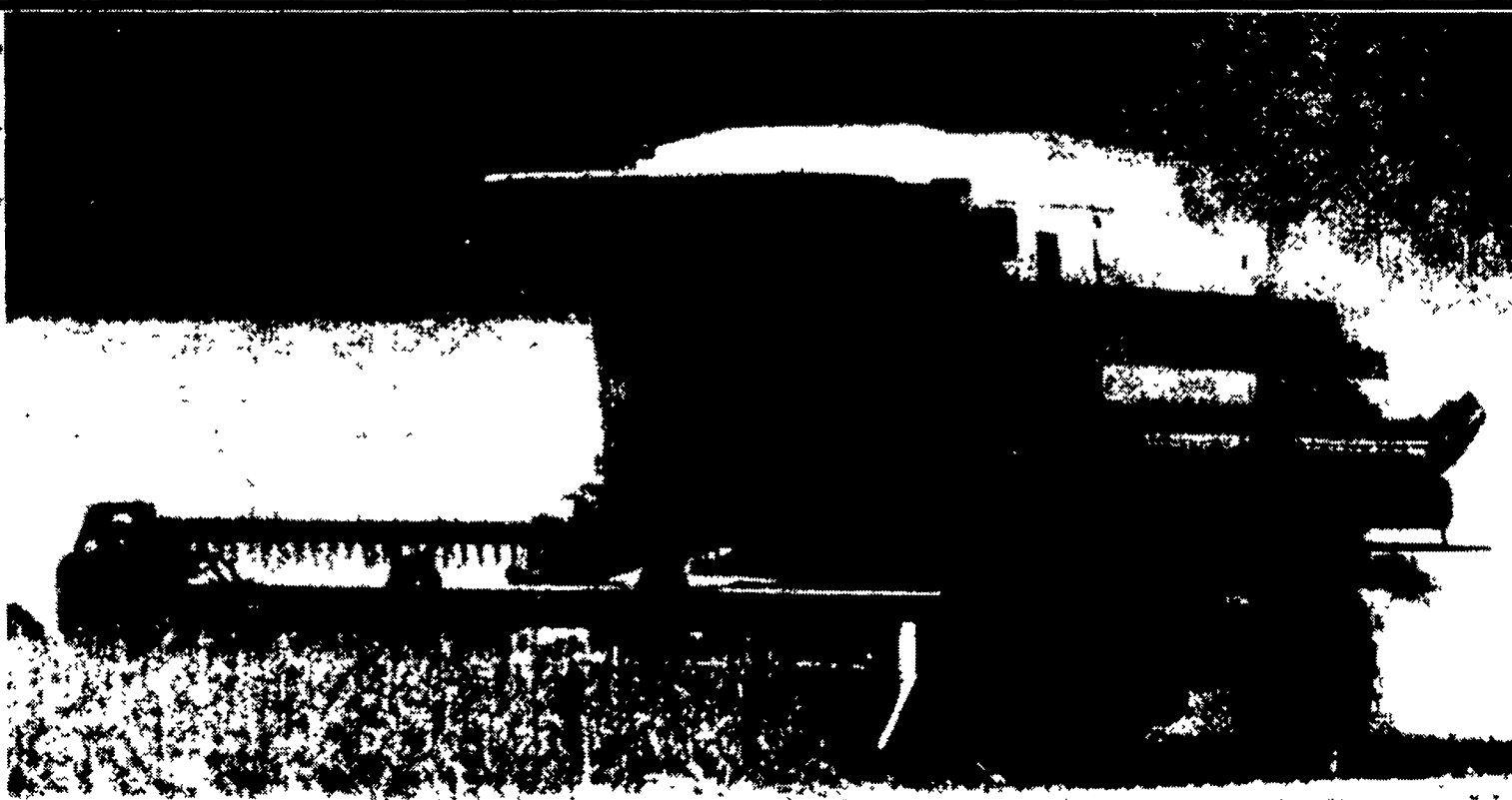
The Heritage Center is located on Red Bridge Road in Bern Township, one-half mile south of Rt. 222 exit for Rt. 183 (one mile north of the Reading Regional Airport).

For more information or directions, call (610) 374-8839 or (610) 372-8939.



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