

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



We all leave something of ourselves behind when we leave this world. It might be good or bad memories. Some of my ancestors left unpleasant memories for their families, while others are not mentioned without nods of approval.

Almost all of them worked hard for a living as they were farmers. Some years were good, and they bought new machinery while others were not, and they had to "tighten their belts." Many went to market every week to bring in extra money.

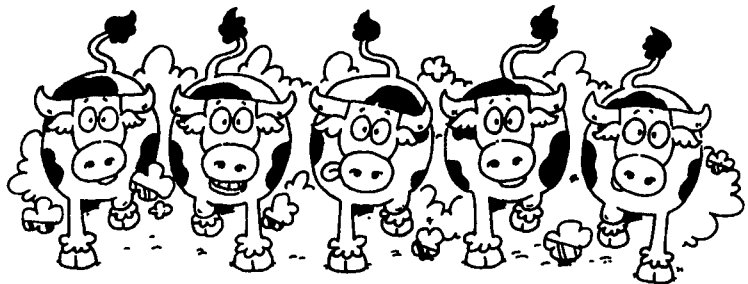
Some of my relatives grew flowers to sell — fresh and dried. They made artificial ones. Some artificial ones were made of crepe paper while others were made of a satin material. One cousin made beautiful girl and boy dolls out of tiny pink socks. These were then embroidered. An elderly aunt made quilted toy dogs. I

never thought of myself as capable of making crafts.

But, then I looked around my living room, and I'm surprised. I see four small vases of dried flowers that I grew. Pillows that I quilted and even an embroidered table cover. There are a number of braided rugs on the floor and a needlepoint chair. I even made a large coffee table in a wood shop course.

What you don't see is in the desk drawers — stories that I've written. My sister has written many stories too. She also is an artist and has many paintings stored in her house.

I've been delving into genealogy lately and one finds relatives that one would sooner forget. So, whether we leave tangible things behind or just good memories, we will be remembered one way or another.



Three West Snyder FFA Students Attend Washington Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Derek Fetterolf, Hannah Etzler, and Phaedra Wray, members of the West Snyder High School FFA Chapter, attended the 2001 Washington Leadership Conference, July 10-14.

The conference is an activity of the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education. The conference's goals are to build individual leadership and citizenship skills and teach team building.

Derek Fetterolf, is son of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Fetterolf of Beavertown, is in the 11th grade and is serving as the 2001-2002 chapter treasurer. Hannah Etzler, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Etzler of Beavertown, in the 11th grade and is serving as 2001-2002 chapter vice president of student development. Phaedra Wray, the daughter of Larry Wray of McClure and Linda Levanowitz of Middleburg, is a senior and is serving as 2001-2002 chapter president.

The week-long program helps FFA members improve their leadership skills and prepare them for leadership roles in their chapters, communities and their future careers. They attend workshop sessions on persuasive communication, character leadership and building relationships, and participated in discussions on citizenship.

The National FFA Organization coordinates the Washington Leadership Conference, which attracts participants from all over the country. This summer, more than 2,300 FFA members will attend one of the conference's seven week-long sessions.



From left to right, Carrie Harp, a Washington Leadership Conference instructor; Derek Fetterolf, Hannah Etzler, and Phaedra Wray.

Students also increase their understanding of the nation's heritage with visits to Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the

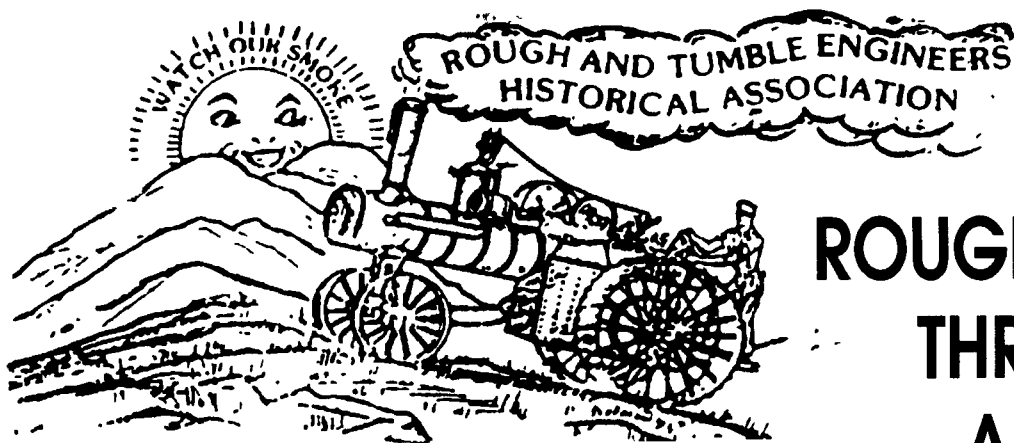
Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt Memorials and other historic sights in Washington, D.C.

Gettysburg Student Competes In Public Speaking Contest

Isaac Bucher placed third in the State FFA Senior Division Public Speaking contest conducted recently at Penn State University with his speech entitled, "Would You Take the Chance?" To reach state-level competition, Bucher advanced through county, area, and regional competition as well as presenting his talk at the Battlefield FFA and Gettysburg Area Young Farmers annual banquet held earlier this year at the Adams County Agriculture Center on Old Harrisburg Road. For his ac-

complishments in public speaking at the state contest, Bucher received a gold medal and \$50 cash.

Guidelines for the contest call for a six- to eight-minute presentation. Scoring is based on voice, presence, and power of expression. Additionally, the manuscript is evaluated for both content and grammatical accuracy. A five-minute period follows the speech presentation whereby judges determine the contestants ability to "think on his feet" and demonstrate depth of knowledge in the subject matter being presented.



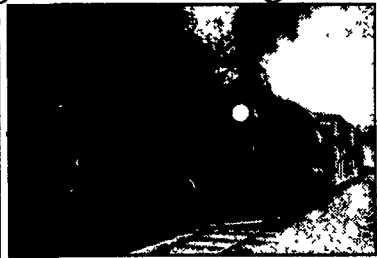
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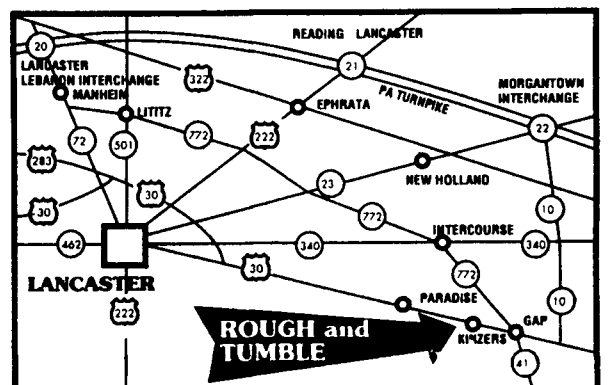
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