

# Ida's Notebook

by  
Ida Risser



Labor Day Weekend! Long ago it was the week to start back to school. Now I hear that some of our grandchildren have already gone to school for two weeks.

Preparation for school was rather simple when I started high school. My mother took me and two of her old Sunday dresses to a dressmaker in a nearby village. Here the lady measured me and without a pattern, made two dresses for me to wear. I usually needed a new pair of shoes. And, I remember one year that my parents bought me a pair of boys ankle high work shoes. It was so embarrassing to wear those brown shoes, but I did as I was told.

We didn't need to buy school supplies as we were given a big

tablet and a pencil at school. Never do I remember having a book bag to carry things. My oval blue tin lunch box is still stored in my house.

We walked in all kinds of weather unless a kind neighbor brought a car for his children. My mother didn't drive and my father was too busy to get us. I surely made up for them as everyday I took our children to the school bus stop almost a mile from our home. And, I drove them to school activities, 4-H meetings, and music lessons. Maybe I shouldn't have learned to drive, but we had a long farm lane and even getting the mail was a chore.

My two-room school had a furnace in the basement and a janitor so that the teachers did not

PHILADELPHIA — Grab your cowboy hat and kick up your heels as thousands celebrate homegrown bounty and competitors vie for ribbons at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Harvest Show, "Harvest Hoedown," Sept. 15 and 16, at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park.

The Philadelphia Harvest Show, a city tradition since 1832, announces the arrival of autumn in a festive weekend of family fun, with exciting competitions, activities and displays.

Prize-winning fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, pressed

plant designs, floral arrangements, baked goods and preserved products all set the stage for this "Country Fair" of successful summer growing. Visitors can attend a variety of educational exhibits and hear guest speakers who will offer free lectures and demonstrations. Youth activities will include pumpkin painting and daily parades, along with competition categories that includes succulents, vegetables, sunflowers, dish gardens, terrariums, annuals, perennials, container gardens and preserved products. A mini-village with seasonal gifts, tools, clothes, furniture, orchids, bonsai, scented soaps, and gardening supplies will be open with more than 50 marketplace shops, complete

with a Garden Cafe for lunch or a light snack.

Special events this year will include the second annual "vegetables-on-wheels" race, trick roping and square dancing. Visitors will witness history in the making as the Guinness Book of World Records officiates the fastest pumpkin-carving attempt ever. And Beekeeper Robert Harvey, a Harvest Show legend, will don his massive "bee-beard" and demonstrate hive maintenance techniques.

The Philadelphia Harvest Show will be conducted Saturday, Sept. 15, and Sunday, Sept. 16, at the Horticulture Center on Horticulture Drive in Fairmount Park, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$2 for children ages two to 12.

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