

**Ida's
Notebook**
by
Ida Risser



since 1948.

On Dec. 1 of that year, I was awaiting the birth of our first child. She was born Dec. 5, and I was knitting a sweater for the new baby. I baked a custard and three pumpkin pies. I made scalloped potatoes and a baked ham. My husband hauled a load of our potatoes to his brother's home.

On Dec. 1, 1958, I went Christmas shopping for our four children. Also, I altered one of my old coats so that it could be worn to do barn work. Again I baked ham and squash while Allen went to the bank and a grocery store.

On Dec. 1, 1968, we had two children in college and the other

four were in public school. We celebrated a birthday early as our daughter was home and had worked three days at the Ephrata Hospital. We took pictures to send as a Christmas card and packed a big lunch as four of us were going deer hunting the next day.

On Dec. 1, 1978, I washed our car, took a broken part of the grandfather's clock to Lancaster to be repaired, baked date-nut cookies for our Square Dance Group, and talked to an aunt who lived in a nursing home.

On Dec. 1, 1988, I walked all over our farm with my husband to mark which walnut trees we

wanted lumbered. Went shopping and bought Christmas cards as we could not get all of our children together for a group picture. They sold a cow and decided to buy a new trailer as my husband and son had formed a partnership.

On Dec. 1, 1998, I wrote my *Lancaster Farming* article and sent a card to an ill relative. My husband got a thorn in his one good eye and had to see a doctor. I took old Christmas cards to an adult care center.

We went from a household of children to a household of two older people. Our life certainly isn't as busy as it was 50 years ago.

As years go by our lives and our activities change. We hope it will be for the better but we never know. As I've written a daily

diary every day for almost 65 years, I thought it might be interesting to see what I wrote on Dec. 1. So, I've checked every 10 years



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