

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



It is time to write Christmas cards, but I'm still thinking about all of the grandchildren who vis-

ited us over the Thanksgiving holiday. They range in age from one to 21.

The oldest is a senior at Duke University in North Carolina and the youngest just had his first birthday. Nine of our 15 visited us over the holidays. The oldest girl is studying to be a doctor and lives in Richmond, Va.

Three of the youngest stayed here for several days. Before they arrived I got a box to store my many knickknacks in as I knew inquisitive fingers would carry them away. And, of course we needed rubber bands to keep some of the cupboard doors closed. Sometimes the potato masher and the egg beater were more interesting than his colorful

toys. Even I could have played with his toys as today's toys are ingenious.

One evening when our daughter, who lives in Maine, went to her high school reunion the 3-year-old asked me a question. Or rather, he pointed to a picture of my husband and me taken 20 years ago and then pointed to me. He was inquiring about the difference in hair color, I tried to explain that as years go by things change.

Now we do not travel as much. We do not square dance regularly. We do not work as long and as hard. We do not cater to the needs of young children.

Long ago I felt that my parents' social life consisted of visits to the doctor. Now we are not quite there as yet, but with my husband's leg problems, it does take up a lot of time for doctor's appointments. Things do change.

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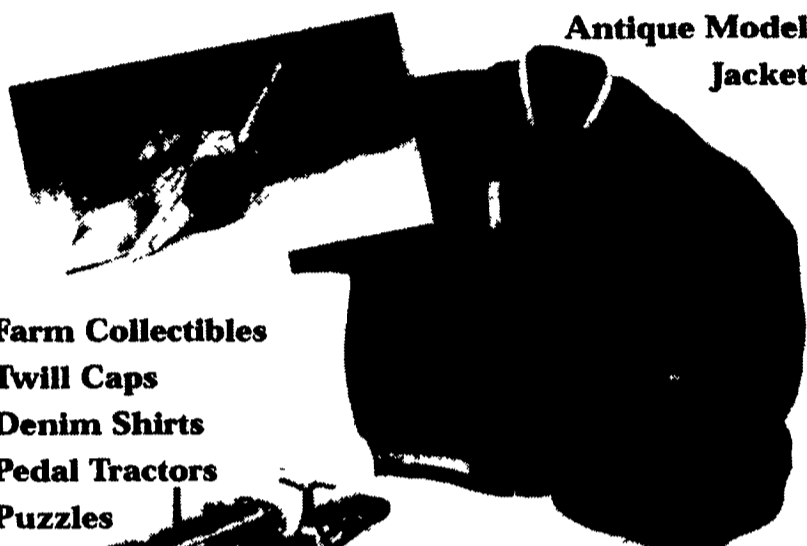
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