

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



Now that the sugar peas are up and growing, I can turn my mind to other things.

As I walk around the yard, I see large black buds on my two papaw trees and the rhubarb is

really pushing stalks. Only two of my parsley plants survived the winter. But I think that will be enough for me to use in cooking. Even the dwarf roses lived through the winter and are starting to grow.

My pussy willow tree is growing too tall and I shall have to prune it so that I can reach the catkins. After the forsythia is finished blooming, it will have some branches removed too.

I've been reading through some of my old diaries in order to tell the grandchildren what their parents did when they were the

children's age. It is interesting to see how very busy we were with six children all going different directions. In the 1960s we had two in college, two were teen-agers, and two were in elementary school. It was three different groups of children — all with very different interests.

It was shortly after this time that I began to write for *Lancaster Farming*. No wonder that I felt I'd always have something to write about.

My youngest sister's husband has begun to take a great interest in cooking. Twice in the last few

months he has invited my sisters and I for a sumptuous breakfast. He not only cooks and serves the meal but he cleans up the kitchen afterward. They have a new kitchen in their Victorian-style house and it looks like a picture from a magazine.

Allen is still going to rehabilitation twice a week and very slowly getting better. His one leg is quite weak and it will probably take all summer to recuperate. Meanwhile, we do the best we can.

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