

**Ida's
Notebook**
by
Ida Risser



Many were simply pictures of Niagara Falls. Others were of banks or churches in this county. The ones with messages on the back were most entertaining.

A lot of them were sent to a great uncle of mine. He was a bachelor and I didn't realize the number of places that he had lived. Many cards only signed with initials and so could not be identified, while others were from people that I knew.

My mother-in-law saved their cards from 1905 to 1915 and often the short messages on the

back were important. As they had no telephones, a "meet me at the trolley Friday night" was important. Often an invitation to a Sunday meal was the message on the back. There were a few seasonal cards for holidays, too, but most were quite businesslike.

Often people had pictures of their homes or farms put on a postcard. These were then mailed to friends. Of course, if they traveled to the seashore or mountains, they sent pictures on cards to relatives. Local scenes of swimming holes, train wrecks, or parks are also of interest today.

Collecting postcards is an interesting hobby for many people and clubs have been formed that meet regularly. Unusual cards are often sold or traded. They have historical value and can show us how cities looked long ago. Automobiles in a picture certainly date the card. Even the dress of people tells us what era they were printed.

Of course, I should not open a scrapbook of postcards when there is work to be done, as I could spend hours just "looking."

Recently I looked through a scrapbook of postcards. They were not especially old cards, but some were interesting.

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