

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



This morning I write my article while my husband lays in bed to rest his back. The house is quiet except for the ticking of the Grandfather's clock. I decided to see just how different my life was 50 years ago. So, I got my 1952 diary out of a drawer.

At that time our daughter was almost four and our son was almost two. They pulled each other in an express wagon and liked to watch the pen of little pigs.

Every morning I washed the milking equipment in a tank of

water and then put it on a metal rack to dry. There were eggs to gather and clean by hand too. I was picking green and yellow beans and trying to keep the asparagus bed weed free. We had no freezer, so we rented lockers in a nearby small town. I also mentioned that the heifers kept getting into the garden.

After church on Sunday, I wrote the minutes of the Lancaster County Extension Service as I was secretary for 15 years. I also mentioned that a great aunt took

our whole family of 19 people for a restaurant meal, which was something different than usual.

During the last week of July 1952, we inquired about the cost of having a bathroom put into our 1813 house. One almost forgets the inconvenience of running outside to a toilet.

Each week I mowed our hilly yard with a small push mower. My mother was given a bouquet of flowers as I drove by her home when I took the 21-month-old boy to the doctor as he had a fever. My sister came to say "goodbye" as she was driving to the west coast to meet her husband who was in the Army.

My husband combined wheat and built a new truck bed. He also bought a watermelon for us at a farmers' market. Often he made ice cream for family gatherings. Many people used our meadow for picnics as it was surrounded by the Conestoga River. We asked 25 cents for them to park there, picnic, and fish. Money was scarce.

Quilt Odyssey To Open Aug. 1 In Gettysburg

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.) — Quilt Odyssey 2002, an annual judged quilt show and exhibits, will take place at the Eisenhower Inn and the AllStar Events Center, 2638 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, Aug. 1-4.

Hours open to the public are Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Friday till 8 p.m.) and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On exhibit will be the quilts from the annual quilt contest sponsored by All American Crafts Publishing Inc., Bernina, Brother, Husqvarna-Viking, Kona Bay, P&B Textiles, Pfaff, and Roxanne Products.

In the same location as the quilt show will be an antique quilt exhibit of quilts of the first half of the 20th Century sponsored by members of the American Quilt Study Group and Friends, an exhibit of cathedral window quilts, and the exhibit, "From the Hearts of Children." Also there will be a large Merchants Mall of more than 80 merchants offering the latest in fabric, quilting gadgets, supplies, books, furniture, antique quilts, and related gift merchandise.

The exhibit, "From the Hearts of Children," features 14 unique quilts assembled from 12-inch blocks made by children in response to the events of Sept. 11. As part of the WTC/Pentagon/Pa. Memorial Quilt Project (www.wtcmemorialquilt.com), children of all ages were asked to make 12-inch blocks using fabric, paint, crayons, etc. They received approximately 18,000 quilt blocks from all over the world. Each block will be sewn into a quilt, with 25 blocks per quilt: these are called "panels."

The Memorial Panels are finished and in Arizona being inked with a victim's name. Some are being assembled into quilts, which will be given to burn victims and to people who lost family members. Some quilts will be auctioned off, all proceeds of which will be given to the Twin Towers Orphan Relief Fund.

In this area, 14 children's quilts were completed with the help of Quilters Unlimited, a nonprofit Virginia quilt guild. Of these 14, one quilt will go to each D.C. area school which lost a child or a teacher; one quilt will be given to each "Ground Zero" school displaced by the tragedy; one quilt will be given to the National Geographic office in D.C. which lost two representatives who were accompanying the school children on the National Geographic sponsored trip to New York; and one quilt will be given to the NYFD Chaplain's office. There is a story for just about every block. Some children included little notes with their blocks and messages of hope.

This year, Quilt Odyssey is working with ABC Quilts through Director Pam Worthen. ABC Quilts is a nonprofit international network of quilters and educators who make crib quilts for children who are born at-risk (HIV positive, drug or alcohol addicted, or abandoned). Part of Quilt Odyssey 2002 is a quilt symposium offering evening lectures to the public.

On Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Pat Campbell will present a few slides and a trunk show of her quilts in "Applique Inspirations."

For more information about this annual event, contact Melissa Molino at (717) 423-5148 or visit the Website, www.quilt-odyssey.com.

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