

Ida's
Notebook
by
Ida Risser



A new year has begun and there is no way that we can know if it will be a good year or a bad year. I guess it depends on what basis we use. Will there be another very dry summer? Will our health be our number one concern? Will our country be at war? There are so many possibilities.

It is time to start our winter activities. Embroidering pillowcases and making another braided rug are some of my busy work in winter when I can't go outside.

Because we do not go outside very much we have acquired an-

other activity. The deer that I mentioned before now come up to our house. They amble around in our yard and sniff the bushes at the house. Sometimes we chase them away.

When we called on one of our Amish neighbors over the Christmas holidays, we disturbed a family gathering. They had 42 members of their immediate family at a sit-down meal in their kitchen. How many of us could do that? There were grandchildren of all ages. The kettle of mashed potatoes was a restaurant-size container. They even baked bread that very day and

gave me a warm loaf.

This year I've been given several poinsettia plants. Some are a light pink, some light red and two are a brilliant red. Usually I can keep them for one year but I do not get them to bloom again.

As I write this article we still have not had our Christmas gathering. I am certainly hoping for good weather as some people will travel great distances. In the many years that we have been hosts only once did we have to cancel due to a snow storm. However, the type of snack food that we serve can wait for another day.

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