

Patchwork

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With the hustle and bustle of activities lately, it suddenly dawned on me that summer is all but gone and those schoolbuses will be on the roads soon. It just doesn't seem possible. It seems that everywhere you go people are busy. The firemen have work parties every day and night. The ladies auxiliary all have jobs and work bees. How about the onion peeling and slicing bee at Carol Blanchards? That was a real tear jerker! Over 100 pounds of onions—and the job all of a sudden got better. Margaret Pierce brought her slicer down and the tears slowed right down.

Traveling and rain
Many people have had guests and some people have done some traveling and others are busy canning while farmers are still trying to get in their fields.

Leroy Ackley stopped the other night and we chatted about the rain and some of the poor corn crops this year. Leroy started the subject when I asked what he'd been doing lately. Leroy answered, "Playing in the mud!" He then went on to say that he'd never heard of so many farmers with break downs on equipment this year. Even power shafts are going this year. All cause we can't get through the mud! And when we discussed gardens, Leroy mentioned that Harold Goldie had a real good garden this year. Harold has only one problem. His tomato plants are huge, but bear very few fruit.

Gardening project
Speaking of gardens—Professor John Omohundra teaches anthropology at SUCP. He also has a summer school class involving independent study. He has a student doing independent study and the student is Pat Moran. His subject: gardening. At this time the two men are interviewing gardeners of all kinds to discover not only how the methods of gardening differ but just why do people have gardens? It's all very interesting.

Professor Omohundra and Pat Moran have spent two sessions with Gene and Agnes Ashley discussing gardens. Of course one can lose track of the main topic very easily when chatting with the Ashleys. Like I learned while listening in: Golden-rod can be brewed and made into a tea while adding sugar to taste to lower a high fever. Gene mentioned they would gather the flower heads and hang them in bunches to dry for use during the winter.

More travelers
And people are traveling. Dick and Rosemary Sanford have guests from Marion, Connecticut. The family, Diane and Jim Hermann and children Mark and Matthew arrived a day late due to hurricane Bella. They report the winds and rains hit an hour after high tide and so they were lucky and suffered little damage. Lost one tree in their yard.

I called Helen Dygert to see how Howard's hand was coming along. Helen had fresh sweet corn on the stove cooking. She explained their grandson Greg was spending his last day visiting from Charlottesville, Virginia and by golly one must have fresh corn before he goes home. Young Greg, aged six years, will have flown from the Syracuse airport by the time this is read. Howard and Helen have busy entertaining young Greg. They have had Greg's relatives over to visit so the young ones will get to know each other. Some young men visiting and spending the night or staying for meals are Charlie and John Grant and Jeff Grant.

Recovering
Howard's hand is "coming along nicely" according to Helen. Howard cut his hand with a chain saw three and a half weeks ago. Since that time he has had his hand in a splint and at this time is doing daily exercises to regain the use of his little finger. The Dygerts took Greg to the Governor Fair and had a good time in the mud and rain!

Also, while chatting with Helen I discovered who has moved a 1/2 of house across from the Dygerts. Allan and Mary Ramsay are fixing up the house and will move back to West Potsdam.

Tent Camping
Margaret and Lee Pierce took some of their grandchildren to Post Wood for an introduction in tent camping. Lee commuted to the site from work. The group had a great time. For some reason the cold nights didn't bother them at all. They took walks and just enjoyed their days. Grandchildren tenting were Steven, Lisa, and Leslie Pierce and Kirk Pierce and Bobby Pierce.

Guests
Chick and Bert Norton and Gene and Agnes Ashley have guests. The Nortons are entertaining their grandchildren Kevin and Steve Bodner. Their parents Brenda and Ric of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania have also spent time



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visiting. The children remained with their grandparents for a vacation. Also visiting at the same time were the Nortons other daughter and her husband, Charlotte and Dr. Bob from Olney, Maryland. They have just bought a new house in that area. They were returning home from their vacation in Nova Scotia and Maine. They brought Gene and Agnes some pretty place mats from Nova Scotia.
And before the Nortons received their house full of family, they themselves had just returned from a trip into New England. Did lots looking and ate that good lobster.

I nearly forgot—Gene and Agnes Ashley have been traveling—That's right! Took their first long ride in a good long time. Buster and Laura Russell drove them to Malone where they had dinner with their daughter Joyce and husband Leland Avery and children, Agnes rode by the house she was born in and remarked that everything had changed so, she didn't recognize the

place.

Out West
Del and Winnie Tyler and children have returned from what Winnie called a "too short" trip. The family drove to Loveland, Colorado to visit Del's sister and family Robert and Marion Monacelli. The Tylers arrived the day after the flash flood hit. It was the other side of town and destruction and sadness was powerful!

But Colorado itself was "just beautiful!" In fact Winnie said "If Del said let's move out there I'd be packed and gone in no time!" The weather offered heat that was a good heat. "Hot, but you don't mind it!"

The family camped while driving out and back. Winnie mentioned she noticed the houses were rarely painted white or even a light color. Most homes were brick or painted a dark color. Irrigation was dominant and the methods fascinated the Tylers. Wanted to stop the car and find out how it all worked. The Rocky Mountains were beautiful.

On one tour they were shown flowers high up with snow near them. They were told the delicate flowers took ten years to grow and bloom. They bought bags of peanuts and hand fed chipmunks and birds until the peanuts were gone. Young Tammy remarked when crossing the Continental Divide, "We studied this in school!" Winnie also mentioned that while in Loveland the lawn was mowed. The clippings are then always raked up as they don't apparently decay or dry up and disappear as our clippings do.

Winnie also mentioned the large stock yards and the small-and fields were planted in circles with farm equipment just huge. In places things looked very dry and rain was needed badly! And the Tylers were gone for two weeks and Winnie says "It was so beautiful, it was just too short a time to really enjoy it all!"

Dairy Princess
And what has Debbie Burdick been doing lately? Well, Debra Burdick, St.

Lawrence County Dairy Princess, has had a busy time. She has been at the fair nearly every day. One job among others was to pass out ribbons for awards and then in the milk booth helping to serve the healthy brew. She also was scheduled to give two speeches at the grandstand. She was allowed to choose her own subject and she has chosen to give a history of the different breeds of cattle as they entered the United States. At this writing she has not yet given her speeches.

Debra was also in the P and C grocery store in Potsdam passing out dairy samples. She had a poster for the store to help inform the public of her coming visit. She had used her only personal photo of her issued as the "official photo." It showed her with a glass of milk. But—sad to say—someone has taken the poster and of course the photo with it. It was taken from the store some time before August 11. Needless to say she sure would like to have it returned. Debbie will attend the State Pageant

August 17 and 18 at Syracuse.

Birthday parties
Marilyn Henderson has mentioned she's thinking of catering to children's birthday parties. She loves to bake and decorate cakes for little ones and just loves to get involved with children and their games. One will recognize her name if you know of all the seasonal plays she puts together using all the neighborhood children. Marilyn just made a cake for her niece's birthday party. Karen Hayes celebrated her eighth birthday at the camp of her grandmother, Ardis Barne at Alan Falls. Karen had a party with her young friends as guests. Marilyn baked the cake. Would you believe a bug? Yup! It had licorice antennae, a red licorice mouth, a bubble gum nose, and smarties for the spots! She made an "Ernie and Bert" cake for her son Michael's birthday. He was three years old on August 3.

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