

Ida's Notebook

Hopefully all but the last minute details of Christmas preparations are taken care of by now. It seems we always need just a few more cookies or someone must shop for just one more gift.

Sometimes shopping with little ones seems such a chore as they look and look before deciding on what to spend their money. But in a few years they are older and make their decisions without any advice from parents.

Now the presents are hidden away in hopes of a white Christmas when they will be opened first thing in the morning around the tree.

Years ago, we planted seedlings in the lower end of our big garden and expected to move them later. We never did get around to this job and now in

order to get an eight foot tree we take the top from a spruce or pine. Their size certainly tells us how time has passed.

Do other families have trouble with two-legged mice? Of course, I mean children who



By Ida Risser

empty cracker boxes, cookie jars and raisins. What an unpleasant surprise to pick up the container and find it is light as a feather and empty. Maybe we have one with a hollow leg

Churches are an important part of our Christmas season and I'd like to tell you about "Old Swedes" church in Philadelphia which I visited recently. It is the oldest church in Pennsylvania and was organized in 1642 and attended by William Penn in 1700. The baptismal font and the bell now in use were brought from Gothenburg, Sweden in 1642.

Betsy Ross was married here in 1777 and Jenny Lind sang from the organ loft in 1851. The cemetery around the church is

almost entirely covered by English Ivy and has an unusual appearance.

History can be a fascinating subject.

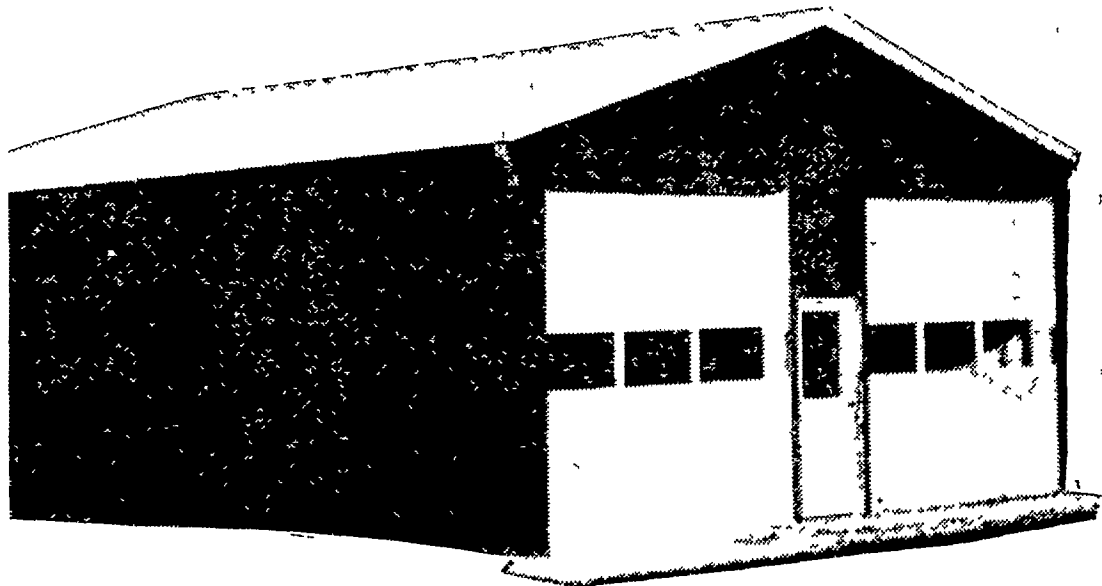
I've always wished I could go back to Napoleon's time and live for one day in my present home with the folks who built it.

Baking bread, churning butter, scrubbing clothes, carrying water, carrying wood — how different it would be from our present way of life.

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● Ladies, Have You

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Some women enjoy receiving hand lotion, a package of their favorite soap, several thirsty washclothes, or a pair of dish-towels. This way you appeal to her penny-pinching spirit and give her budget a lift.

Be alert to your friend's needs. That's always a help in small-gift buying. Did you notice her cutting biscuits with a drinking glass or spearing olives with a paring knife? Those are your cues, and chances are your friend will be delighted with just the right gift for a dollar or less.

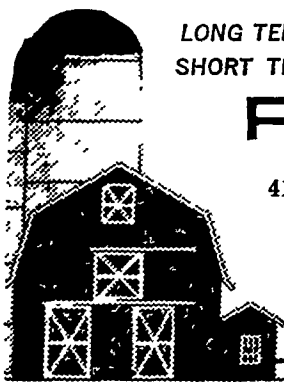
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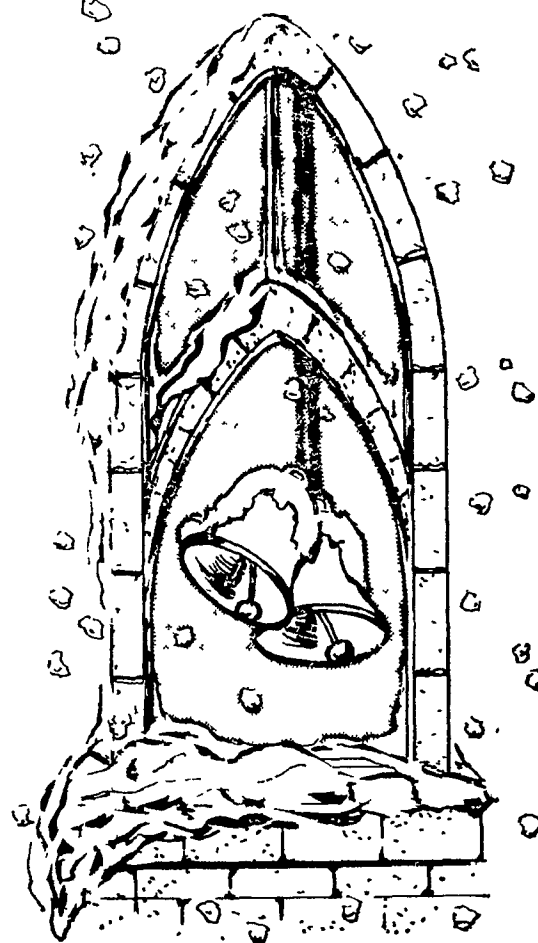
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