

Ida's Notebook



Ida Risser

Children in high school today learn a lot more than just the subjects that they study. Yes, they master physics, chemistry, calculus and learn to converse in other languages. But, sometimes the other activities also teach a lot. There are many clubs which help them achieve skills in music, hand crafts, rifle, and even chess and cards.

And a field unto itself is sports. The time and effort spent by track and wrestling teams is difficult for me to condone. When our son decides to run five or eight miles on a Sunday afternoon, just to keep in shape, it seems a waste of effort in my mind. Now, if he wanted to go shopping, and instead of giving him the car, I said, "Oh, you can run to Lancaster and get your things," I'll bet there would be a sad face.

However, what I really

started out to tell you about was the four political parties that were organized at Manheim Township High School to elect officers for Youth Day in Government. Both of our children were very involved and worked quite hard to have their candidates elected. Several mornings they got up at 5 a.m. to be at school by 6:15 in order to make and hang posters. They even used regular voting machines and learned how to operate them.

Finally election day came and they were lucky enough to have their party sweep to victory! But, now, another problem surfaced after the election. As a few of their members lost to other party candidates, somehow they had to be rewarded and placed in appointed offices. The patronage system really gave them trouble there were more prospective

Plant lovers' corner

Commercial fruit course offered

UNIVERSITY PARK — The best time to prune fruit trees is early Spring after the worst of the Winter weather has passed and before leaves come out on the trees, advises Marshall Ritter, professor of pomology and Extension specialist in pomology. Ritter, in his correspondence course on commercial fruit growing, cautions not to prune trees while they are frozen because wood is more liable to split and is also more subject to Winter injury.

Ritter also details steps to rejuvenate old trees (25-years-old) so that they will have five to 10 more years of life. Other lessons in the course cover location,

planting, soil management, pruning, packing, and marketing of commercial fruits. Apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, and quinces are the fruits emphasized.

This 12-lesson course, intended for those interested in growing tree fruits as a

business, is available from Box 5000, University Park, Pa. 16802. Specify "Commercial Fruits," and make your check for \$6.50 payable to Penn State.

A companion course, "Disease and Insect Problems in the Commercial Orchard," covers the major diseases and insects of apples, pears, peaches, cherries, plums, and other deciduous tree fruits. Written by Donald H. Petersen, professor of plant pathology Extension, and Stanley G. Gesell, professor of entomology Extension, the course does not give specific chemical controls

but gives other planting and sanitation practices used to control disease, and insects and includes symptoms of damages.

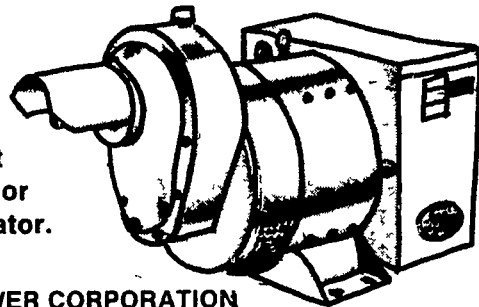
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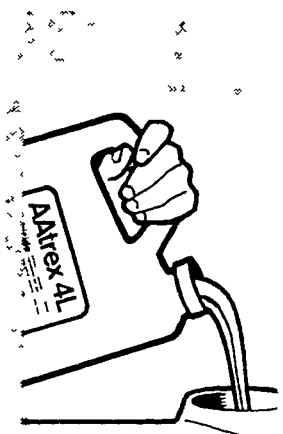
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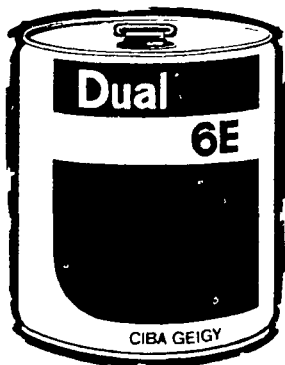
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