

**Ida's
Notebook**

Ida Risser



On a recent Sunday afternoon, my husband and I took a drive to enjoy the foliage and to see the Daniel Boone Homestead. You know it is said that the Tourist Bureau's job in the Fall is to convince the people that the leaves 150 miles from home are more beautiful than those in their own backyards.

We were amazed at the size of the Boone home and family farm. It is a sanctuary of the Pa. Game Commission and deer, raccoon, pheasants, quail and rabbits can be seen. It also contains a lake and stone dam. The water runs a sawmill with a vertical saw.

I expected to see a log cabin. Well, we did see a restored one but the real attraction was a large brownstone house built before 1750. In a kettle hung on a trammel, we could see and smell the sausage and apples being cooked. There were pewter plates and many crocks displayed. The parlor contained a tall clock made near Reading, a tape loom and a beautiful desk, chairs and table. In terms of the 18th century the Boones were a prosperous family.

However, when Daniel was 16 in 1750, the family left all this and went to find better land in N. Carolina. Another reason for leaving was to escape the censure of the local Friends Meeting as they were Quakers who came to America before 1713. His father was a weaver and a blacksmith as well as a farmer.

Daniel Boone is identified with the "winning of the West," yet the original colonies were themselves pioneer areas. At this time, Berks County was at the edge of the wilderness and Daniel learned to hunt and trap and shoot accurately the Pa. rifle given him on his tenth birthday. These skills served him well in Kentucky and Missouri in later years. Many early Pa. families faced the same dangers and hardships to settle virgin lands as did those who later moved farther to the west.

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Melvin Houck wins FFA degree

ELVERSON - Melvin Houck, Elverson R1, with a long list of agribusiness jobs and achievements, has earned the 1978 American Farmer Degree in the area of Agribusiness.

Melvin, a 1975 graduate of Twin Valley High School, served as chaplain and sentinel of his Twin Valley FFA Chapter. During his FFA career, Melvin was awarded with the Soil and Water Conservation Foundation Medal. He also participated in the State FFA Chorus, livestock judging, and summer convention.

The 22 year old started his agribusiness career by harvesting potatoes for one summer. While in high school he worked at Weavers Orchard for two years. He then went to Lois Stoltzfus and worked with the dairy farmer for one year. Melvin's next work experience was with a poultry operation,



Melvin Houck

Victor Weaver, of New Holland. He is presently working for New Holland Concrete, New Holland, where he drives a redi-mix truck.

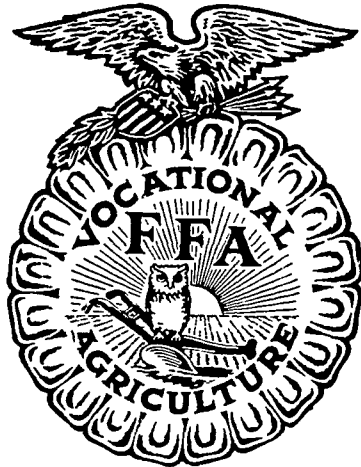
"I have earned the highest degree in FFA of which I never dreamed of" Melvin said. "When I started out in

the ninth grade, I never imagined myself as getting it." When I got the State Farmer Degree I just had one more to go. It didn't seem so far away then, it seemed obtainable."

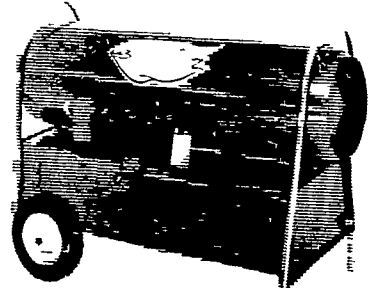
Melvin, the son of Frank and Ruth Houck, is a member of the Goodwill United Methodist Church.

He is a past president of the youth group there. His hobbies include dirt bike motor crossing, reading, and fishing.

Melvin's future plans include being married in February. He plans on living in Blue Ball in a trailer he financed through his agribusiness endeavors.



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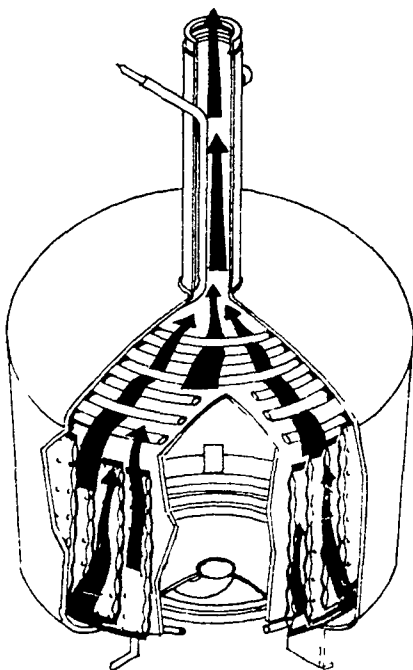
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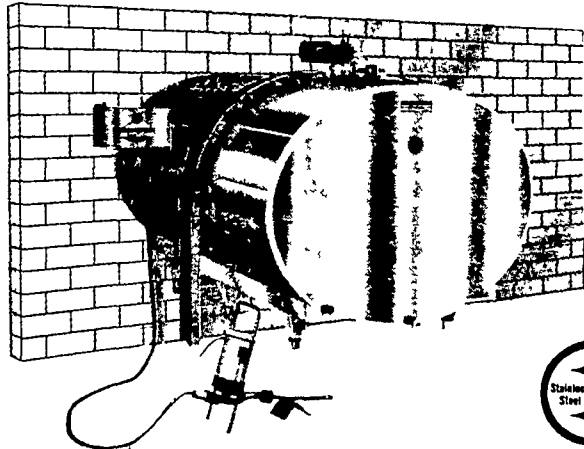
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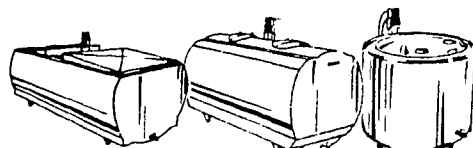
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