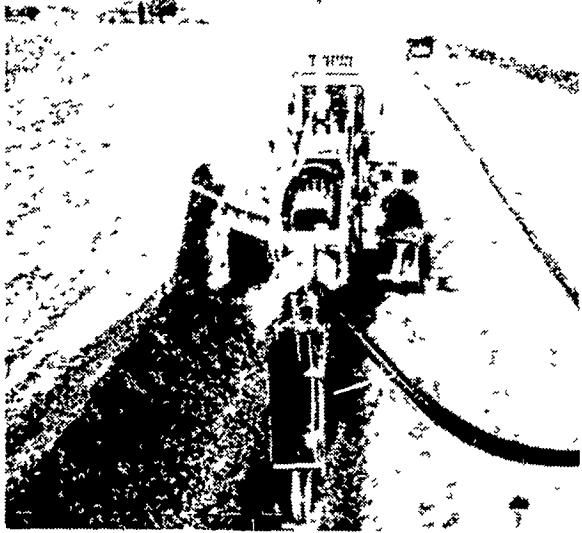


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**Ida's Notebook**

**Ida Risser**



I'm rather discouraged this morning when I consider the attendance we've had at our 4-H meetings. I've tried to analyze why the children don't come.

They've gotten a sheet listing all the meetings during the summer. There are a variety of activities to try and suit their interests. And, they had a hand in planning visits to greenhouses, veterinary clinics, and museums. One thing that causes absenteeism is their taking two and three week vacations with their families. Another is simply forgetting about the meetings as other things

like baseball and swimming seem more important. Also, I feel that the parents must be interested in 4-H too.

We had a bit of bad luck in that the Wildlife group had their hike rained out and the Craft leader broke her ankle and had to cancel several meetings. The Sewing group felt very rushed in completing their projects. As they use the school facilities, they can only start after school is over for the year. A few more mothers helping would have made a big difference.

Even our Cooking club, which is usually quite popular, has suffered. Only a

few show up and have various excuses for not coming. And when they come for a session we find that they are finicky eaters.

A whole meal is cooked and some do not eat chicken, some no fish and some no meatloaf. I almost feel that they are raised on hamburgers and frankfurters.

The other night a little girl was left at my door on a Thursday — we always meet on Monday. One little girl without any supper. She informed me the phone was off the hook at home so that I couldn't call her mother.

What to do! We cooked a meal of baked chicken, a carrot and cheese casserole and fruit dumplings. It really wasn't too bad but I didn't really need a second

meal as our family had eaten earlier.

Our own children are the opposite of the lackadaisical ones I've been talking about and always ran to so many meetings on the local, county and state level that we, their poor parents, found it difficult to manage without them. Surely somewhere in between there must be a happy medium.

xxx

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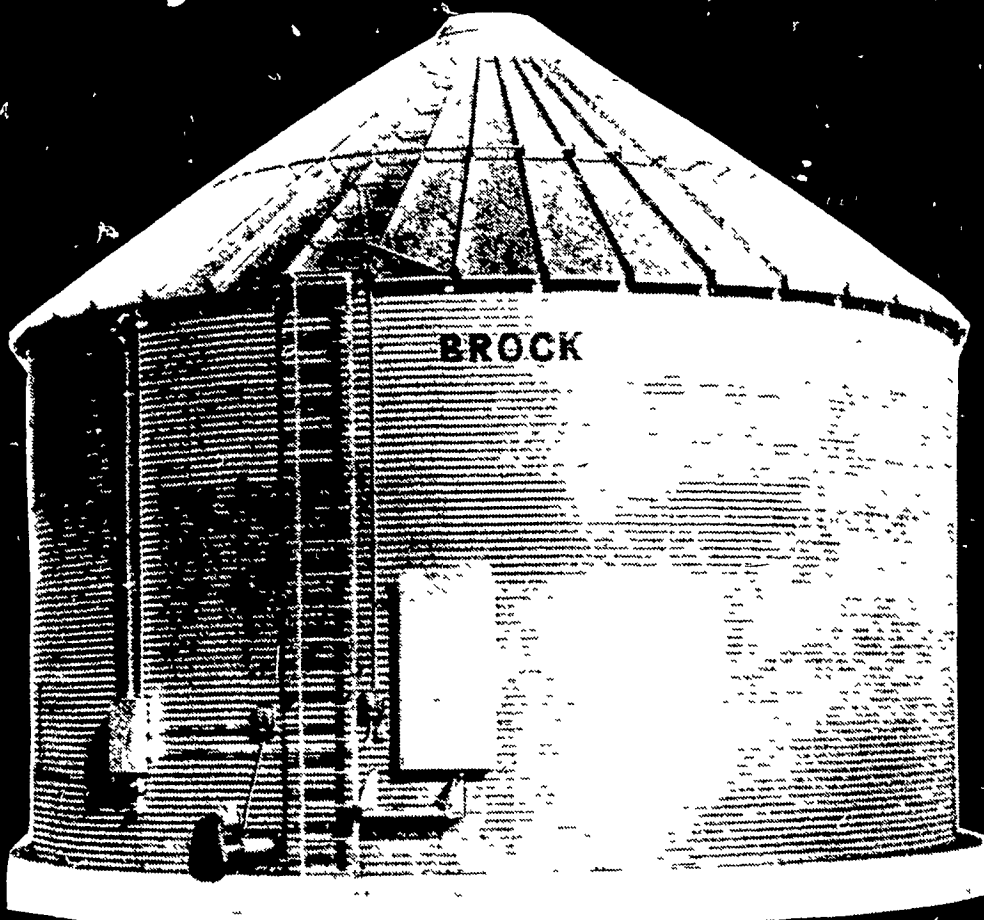
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