

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Lately I've been looking over some Agricultural Almanacs printed in the 1870's. They were printed by John Baer's Sons and lucky for me they are printed in English

When I find some genealogical

information in German I can read that, but not my German bibles. I tell myself that someday I'll improve my knowledge of the German language

These almanacs cover every imaginable subject from recipes to getting rid of bed bugs by applying quicksilver and egg whites, with a feather, to all parts of your bedstead once a year I never realized that cows, horses and sheep could have so many ailments that needed to be cured.

The contents of these old books also include remedies for human illnesses such as doses of turpentine to cure headaches.

The main feature in the 1870 almanac is on the "Profits of Fish Farming." They state that sowing fish is twice as valuable as sowing corn and that an acre of good water produce twice as much food as an acre of land. Advice is also given to the farmer who is planting Indian corn — he is told to soak it overnight in tepid water before coating it with coal tar or to keep the birds and squirrels from eating the seed.

One line of advice reads, "Put a

few live fish in your wells, if angle worms infest them."

Bleached celery is given top billing to cure nervousness and palpitations of the heart if eaten with each meal and the common strawberry is extolled as a natural dentrifice. They recommend keeping grapes fresh by burying them

in a keg in the ground.

What I enjoyed reading was the article on "Home Cheerfulness." They felt that children go astray not because there is want of prayer or virtue in the home but because it lacks sunshine. Parents were advised to talk to their children and smile so the children will not spend their hours elsewhere.

Berks Co. Board meeting

The Berks County Board of Farm Women held a meeting recently to announce the following events:

The project for 1981 farm women is quilting. Entries will be judged on workmanship, neatness, evenness of stitches, design and general appearance.

Berks Heim Bingo will be April 1. Requested are balls, puzzles,

afghans, used hearing aids, perfume, powder, necklaces and rings Berks Heim Tea will be May 6.

The Berks hoedown will be held October 24 at the Hamburg Field House with music by "The Fairer Sex."

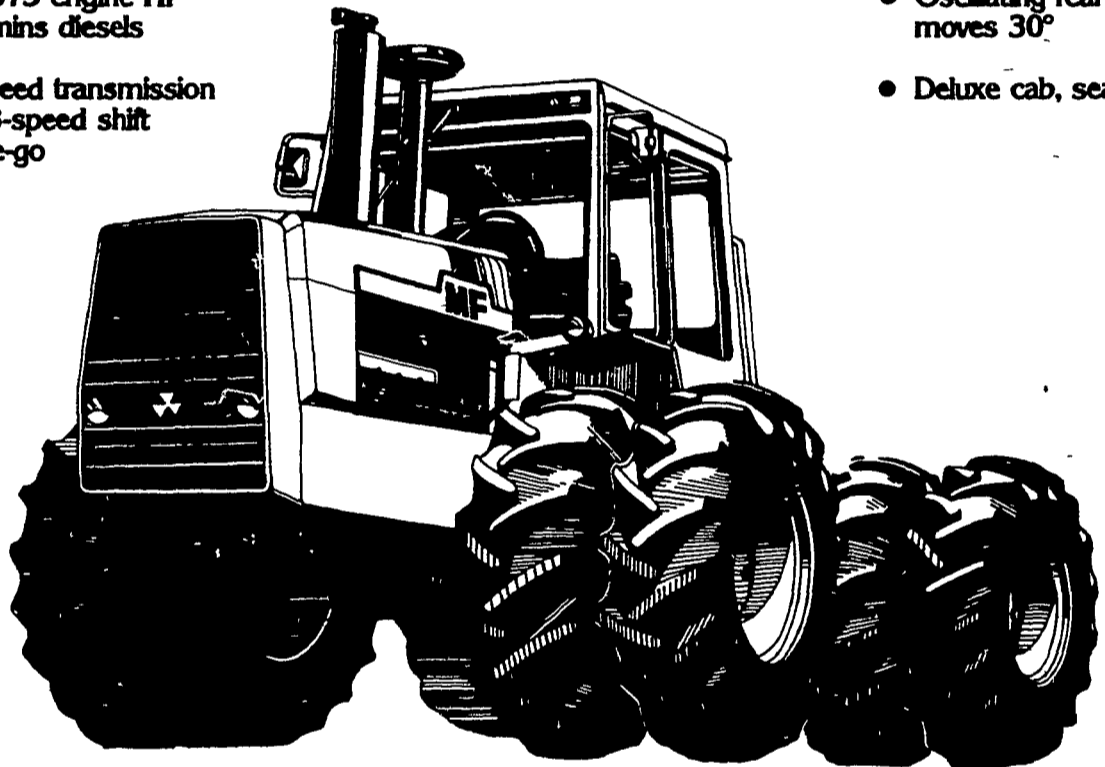
The 4-H Arts and Crafts Bazaar will be April 3 and 4.

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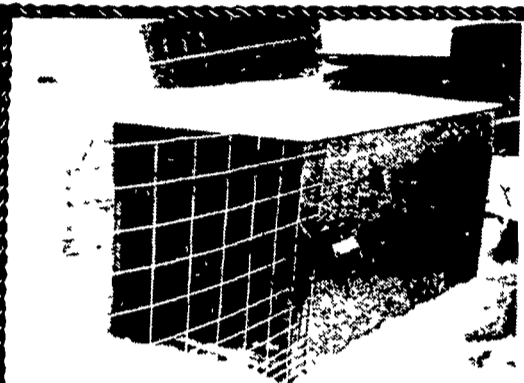
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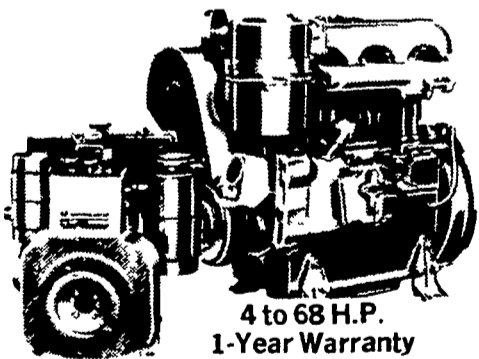
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