

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



My visit to a dairy farm in Kent County, England was quite interesting.

On our way from our London hotel, we drove for two hours on narrow roads lined with high hedgerows and felt quite boxed in by them. The County of Kent has rolling farmland and has been called the "Garden of England."

There were 100 Holstein cows on this farm. They were fed silage which was stored on the ground in metal sheds under plastic and then hay bales were stored on top of it.

All through England and Europe, I noticed that the farm buildings were very old and no new ones were seen except very occasionally. There was a brick wall around the barnyard and also around the house. There was a wide variety of flowers planted around the house.

Four large Ford tractors were sitting nearby and a milk truck, with a very small tank, came to pick up the milk while we were there. Some farmers are given subsidies up to 40 percent to keep them on the farm.

The house was built during the 12th Century and contained some very unusual fireplaces. The housewife had a most modern kitchen and cooking equipment. The entire house had thick carpeting and was decorated with ornaments from harness.

Their son showed us his rabbit hutches and we peered over the fence at a garden behind the barn. They do not grow tomatoes nor sweet corn and they have different names for some of their vegetables.

We spent a wet afternoon sloshing through mud at the Kent Co. Agricultural Fair. There were many cows, goats and sheep in the tents. One tent had currants and boysenberries for sale while another large tent had a flower show to rival the Philadelphia Flower Show. And, would you believe it, I forgot to take any pictures of the beautiful arrangements.

A Mr. Hodges, who ate lunch with us, explained how he grows 60 acres of 15 foot high hops on trellises. New strings are put up

Bence wears Bedford Co. crown

BEDFORD — Wendy Bence, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Bence, Schellsburg, was crowned 1981 Bedford County Dairy Princess in competition held at the Northern Bedford High School.

Chosen from a line-up of four contestants, first runner-up was Liane Johnson of Breezewood, second was Peggy Morral of Clearville and third was Elizabeth Smith of Roaring Springs.

The girls were presented in evening gown competition, were asked questions, and each performed an individual skit based on milk and milk products.

Wendy's presentation was a colorful introduction to "Mighty Milk." This having been Wendy's second year in the pageant, she admitted 'the second time is harder.'

Liane, a 1980 high school graduate, portrayed a frontier wife describing the history and usefulness of milk.

Peggy, who will be entering her senior year in high school, won Miss Congeniality with a personality that could sell milk to Dr. Pepper.

Approximately 15 county dairy farmers added a 'touch of class' with a 'Farmwives Fashion Show'.

Outgoing Bedford County Dairy Princess Suzanne Diehl, daughter

of Mr. and Mrs. William Diehl of R. 4, Bedford was on hand to crown the new winner. Suzanne presented

the winner with a road sign indicating the home of the Bedford County Dairy Princess.



Wendy Bence of Schellsburg was named Bedford County's new dairy princess. With her is 1980 dairy princess Suzanne Diehl, left, and Liane Johnson of Breezewood.

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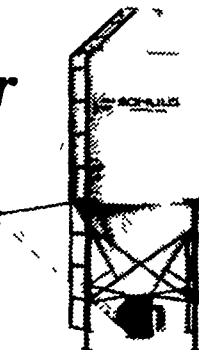
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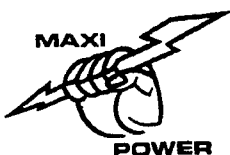
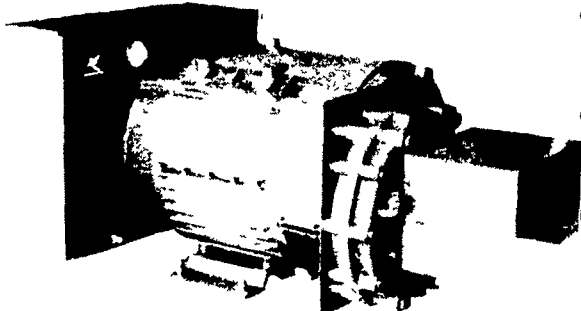
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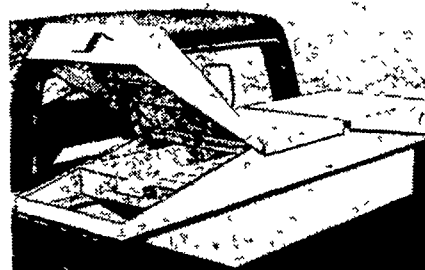
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