

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



My last night in Paris turned out to be pleasant despite a slow start. Most of our group went to a nightclub for \$48 per person, while some of us were left to entertain ourselves.

After a quiet meal with a couple from Vermont, who decided to retire at 8 p.m., I started on a walk around our hotel. It remains light in Europe until almost 10:15 p.m. I met another couple who was just going out to eat and they asked me to join them.

I very much wanted to sit in a cane-seated chair at a cafe on the sidewalk and eat and sip a drink as is the traditional thing to do in

Paris. Now was my opportunity. Although, as it was late, we had to inquire at three different places before we finally were served outside.

The temperature during our whole trip was a cool 65 to 75 degrees.

Next morning we traveled through the wine-growing regions of France into the Jura Mt. section of Switzerland. It was a long, ten hour drive on the Autobahn to Neuchatel where a banquet meal awaited us. It was quite fancy and included onion soup, a big salad, roast beef with mushrooms and a pasta. The dessert served over a

two hour period was a rum cake with custard and fruit.

We caught our first glimpse of the beautiful snow-covered Alps and tiny villages with narrow streets where each house has colorful flower boxes at the windows. There small gardens contained onions, lettuce, beans, Swiss chard and red currants.

The farmers only mow small pieces of hay at one time on the steep hillsides and then dry it on small wooden triangular racks. We were told that is their soil erodes, then they carry it back up the hills again.

Our bus took us to the wood-carving village of Brienz where we could shop. In the afternoon we took a very clean Swiss train for a smooth trip into the Simmen Valley. We were privileged to go high up into a summer pasture and see the chalet that the herdsman shares with the cattle.

The one end of the farmer's barn was protected not only by avalanche fences high on the mountain but also by a stone gable end and a stone roof. We heard the tinkling of cow bells and saw a prize Simmental bull. After touring the farmer's home in the village, we were served wine and cheese — a very dry cheese that was sliced on a slaw board.

Non-farm programs share 4-H spotlight

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Later this month, the 100th Maryland State Fair will see the traditional programs in livestock, food and clothing sharing the spotlight with a 4-H dog show, photography exhibit, and consumer judging and a bicycle contest.

Almost 25 percent of Maryland's 4-H members come from cities of over 50,000 people. Less than 12 percent come from farms.

From nearly 40,000 4-H members in Maryland, each of the 23 counties and Baltimore City will send two 4-H'ers to the 1981 Maryland 4-H Fashion Revue. The selection is made from local and county-wide competitions. One of the 48 participants will be selected to represent Maryland in a National 4-H Fashion Revue. The Maryland selection will be announced September 4 at 8 p.m.

A 4-H automotive contest is scheduled at 6 p.m. in the Horse Show Ring on Thursday, September 3. Knowledge and skill in handling cars safely will be judged.

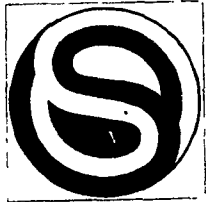
One of the more recent additions to the 4-H activities at the fair is a

team of 4-H press photographers and reporters. Members of the press team are selected by Extension specialists from the University of Maryland. Under the supervision of photographers, journalists and radio personnel from the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, these young men and women will report the 4-H activities at Timonium to Maryland newspapers and radio stations.

An additional feature at the fair will be the opportunity for "running" enthusiasts to file an entry in the 10-kilometer Clover Classic. Entry forms will be available at the Choice Park in front of the 4-H building. Race information for the October 3rd event will also be available from state 4-H council members.



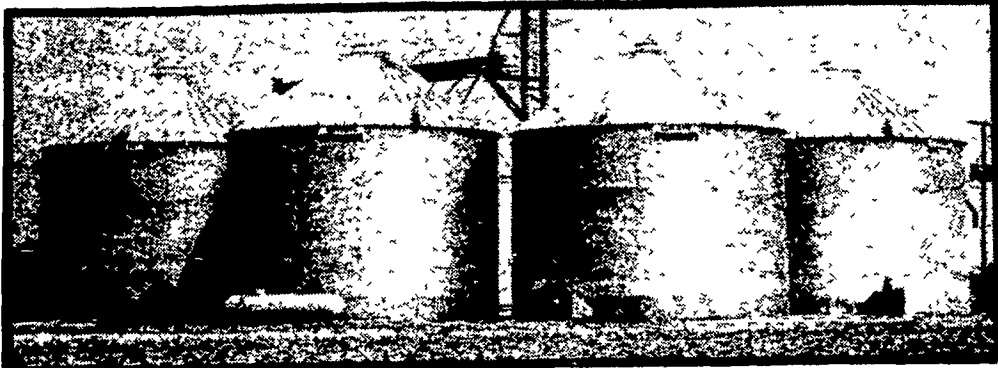
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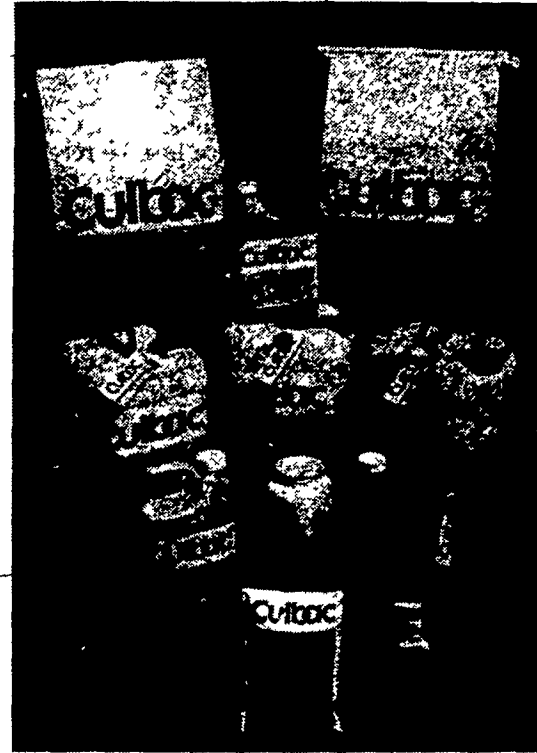
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