

## Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Our children were home from college for ten days and what a busy time it was. The time seemed to fly by too quickly.

I spent a lot of time cooking and baking for them. One day we had a fried rabbit for dinner that my husband shot. And for supper we had country-style pheasant that I shot. In fact, there is a story behind

that bird.

As I was working at the kitchen sink, I noticed several cockbirds in my garden. So I grabbed my single barrel shotgun and an extra shell and hurried outside and waited for them to come into view. Then I shot two with one shell and was quite pleased with myself as they were the only ones that we got.

The one had a band on it's leg and a Sportsman's Club wanted to know "where" it was shot. I told my son that I wrote and told them "one pellet in it's neck." Of course, I was only kidding as I knew they wanted to know the locality.

The children were a big help! Jeffrey caulked all of our storm windows and helped to put up two new ones while he was home. Cindy put oats straw on all the strawberries and Philip helped to put boards on the south end of the

calf barn. But now they have returned to their studies and I must think of sending Christmas cards and letters.

When I look over the list each December, I think of it as a time of reckoning. Names are deleted by deaths, new ones added by marriage and birth and there is a constant fluctuation as family members change. Even though members change, through it all

remains the permanence of "family."

And when we decide to remove a friend's name from the list, because they no longer remember us with a card, that will be the year that they will send one to us. Deciding on a final list can take almost as much time as addressing the cards. I feel that we must try to decide on whether or not a greeting from us will bring joy to the recipient and not think of the cost of postage and cards.

## Dairy farmers, give yourself a pat on the back

LANCASTER — Milk is still tops with kids says a survey published in October, 1981.

The report states that milk is still the most popular beverage at mealtime for children, with 81 percent of all children drinking milk or flavored milk drinks at breakfast, and nearly 50 percent at lunch and dinner.

When milk hit its peak in 1980 — with a 128.4-billion-pound total — nearly 60 percent of the beverage milk produced was consumed as whole milk and nearly 30 percent was skim milk

Few will disagree that U.S. agriculture is the best in the world — each farmer producing enough food for himself and 56 other people. And dairy farmers deserve extra kudos because they are often considered the most efficient part of agriculture due to their breeding and feeding expertise.

Back in 1955 there were more than one million dairy farms with about 25 million cows. The average cow that year produced 5,842 pounds of milk.

In 1980, the number of dairy farms ranged in estimates from

170,000 to 300,000. The nation's cow herd numbered 10.8 million with the average cow producing 11,813 pounds of milk; and yet this is the year milk leaped to its 128.4 billion pound total.

But despite this efficiency, the United States does not lead in the consumption of milk. The same survey mentioned above points out that though the U.S. enjoys its milk, Scandinavians are the largest consumers of fluid milk, with a per-capita consumption figure more than double that of the U.S. —DK

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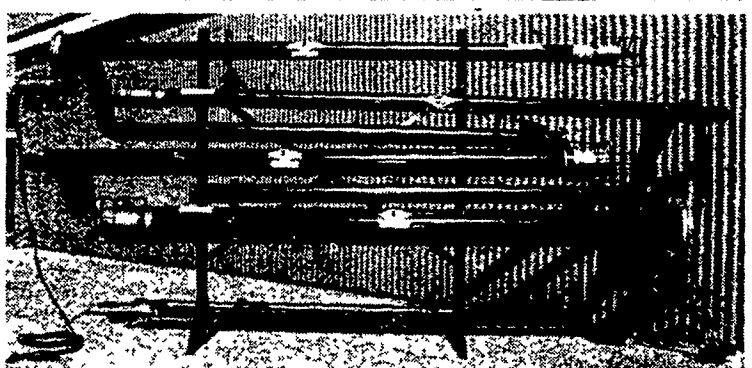
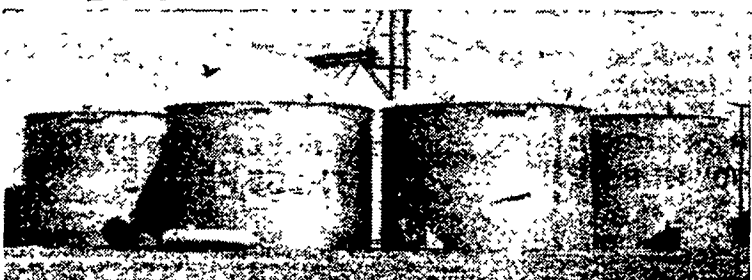
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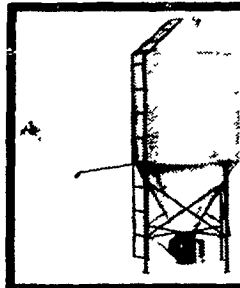


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