

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



People talk about the winter doldrums. It is considered to be a period of listlessness and despondency. I don't feel that it has affected me because I've kept myself busy cooking, baking, tending hundreds of houseplants and braiding rugs. I've just finished one and hope to braid

another before my really busy garden season starts in March. Winter is my vacation from picking hundreds of boxes of strawberries and rows and rows of sugar peas which I sell besides tending a large garden for our own use.

Speaking of vacations, I've been

planning a Caribbean Cruise since November. I see the dictionary gives a second meaning to the word "doldrums." It says, "a part of the ocean near the equator abounding in calms, squalls and light shifting winds." As you read this, if all goes as planned, I should be flying to San Juan, Puerto Rico and finding out if this definition is true. Then will follow visits to a half dozen islands in the French West Indies, U.S. Virgin Islands,

and Netherlands Antilles. It should be quite an adventure aboard the Sun Princess, the sister ship to the Pacific Princess better known as the "Love Boat" on television. My children have been showering me with gifts of clothes and advice. Also, the loan of a good camera and an offer to take me to the Philadelphia Airport. It has been an unusual experience to try and gather together a nice wardrobe for summer weather in

February.

There will be about fifty people in our group. They are from California, Oregon, Texas, S. Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Iowa, New York and little me from Pennsylvania. In the following weeks, I hope to be able to share with you the sights and sounds of my tours of these tropical islands and my life on the magnificent Sun Princess.

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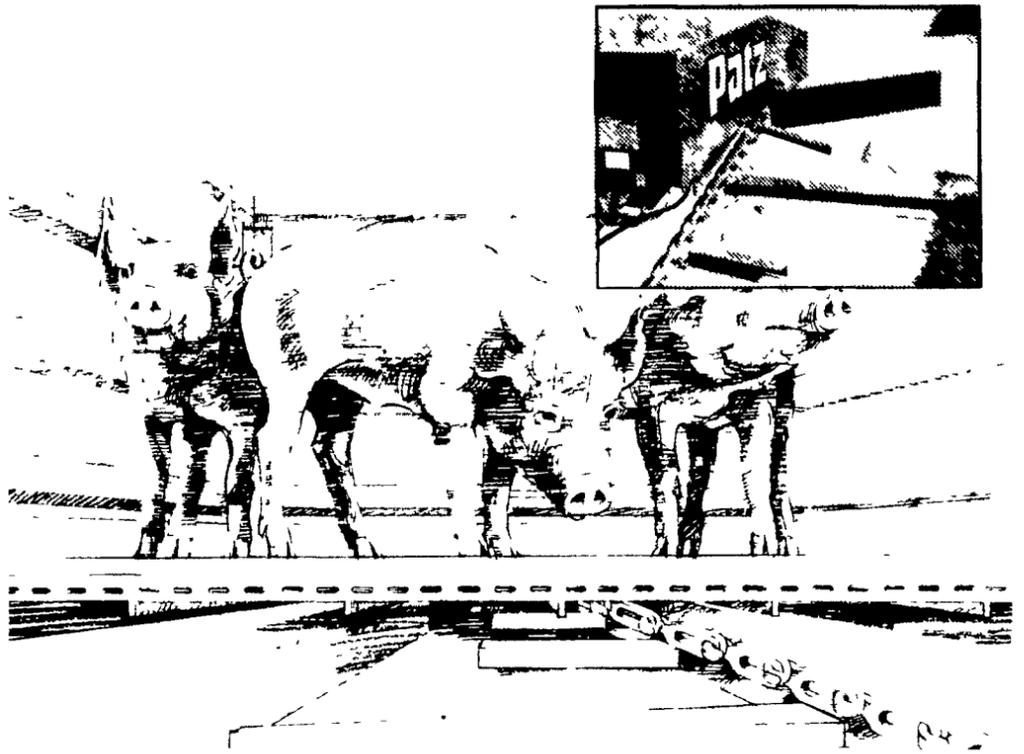
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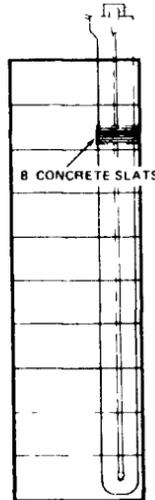
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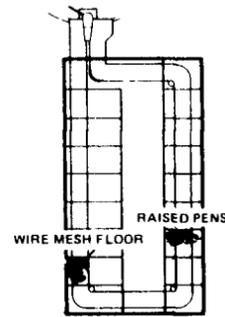
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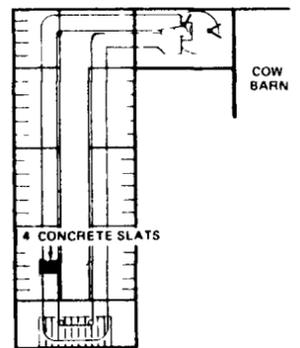
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