

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



During my tour of Natchez, Miss., we visited three large mansions. Natchez was settled in 1716 by the French.

Our first stop was "Linden" whose doorway is famous as it was filmed in "Gone with the Wind." The earliest part of this house was built in 1792 and the west wing was used as a schoolroom for the 13 children in the family. Now the sixth generation lives here. There is a drawing room and a banquet room with a magnificent cypress "punkah" hanging over the table. The "punkah" was used to create a breeze and to chase flies from the food.

Next we stopped at "Melrose" with its elaborately carved original rococo revival furniture and separate building with a kitchen. Our last stop was at "Twin Oaks" where they also had "puddle" curtains. They were so named as the excess material lay on the floor thus showing that the owners could afford to buy more fabric than necessary.

We had free time for lunch and I ate in a Health Food store with three other people. Then I walked several blocks and went through some antique shops. That afternoon we drove along the Gulf Coast to Biloxi, Miss. We crossed the Pearl River and saw the 26-mile long man-made beach. I walked along there one cold and windy afternoon.

That night I ate at a cafeteria in a large shopping mall with a couple from Missouri and discovered that we had a mutual friend, a professor at Penn State

University. The next morning I took another of my 110 pictures. This one of the Gulf Coast Lighthouse, an 1848 landmark. It was painted black when Lincoln was assassinated and was draped when John Kennedy was shot.

Our last stop was at Bellingrath Gardens, Theodore, Ala. Here we saw 65 acres of manicured lawns and 250,000 azalea plants in full bloom. Their many varieties of roses bloom from April to December. They had to spend four million dollars to repair the 1979 hurricane damage.

We had our farewell meal at

Search begins for Schuylkill County dairy princess candidates

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN — All single young women who are between the ages of 16 and 24 and from a dairy farm background are eligible to compete for the title of 1986 Schuylkill County Dairy Princess, announces Elaine Moyer, chairperson of the Schuylkill County Dairy Princess Committee.

The contest covers Schuylkill County.

The winner will be eligible to compete, at the state level, for the title of Pennsylvania Dairy Princess.

Twenty-nine state princesses and hundreds of county princesses have served as spokespersons for the dairy industry in Pennsylvania over the last thirty years. They appear in shopping malls, fairs, supermarkets and on radio and television to educate consumers about the dairy farmer's products.

Any single woman who has completed her junior year in high school, is not over 24 years of age, never married and whose parents or guardians are engaged in dairy farming is eligible to compete for the title. A young lady is also eligible if she, herself, is a full-time

employee on an operating dairy farm or owns at least two dairy animals in a 4-H or F.F.A. project prior to May 1, 1986.

The winner of the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant receives a \$500 cash award. The first and second runner-up will receive a \$300 and \$200 cash award respectively. The state title is honorary and would not interrupt school or regular employment plans. The State Pageant is coordinated through Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services, Inc.

Young women interested in entering the Schuylkill County Dairy Princess Pageant should contact Elaine Moyer at RD 1 Box 207 Schuylkill Haven or Rhoda Daubert at RD 2 Pine Grove, PA by April 19, 1986.

Cock O'The Walk where we were served hot corn bread in iron skillet, slaw in stoneware crocks and catfish and hush puppies on a tin plate. For dessert we had Mississippi Mud Cake. The tour guide gave small "fun" gifts to different members and I was given pens and stationary from all of the hotels because I was continually taking notes.

Our last morning in Biloxi the temperature was 32°F. as we walked to a nearby Waffle Shop. Then we drove to New Orleans Airport and I flew into Atlanta, Ga., where I changed planes for Philadelphia. As I ate a delicious meal on the airplane, I was treated to a beautiful view of Washington, D.C. at night with thousands of glistening lights.

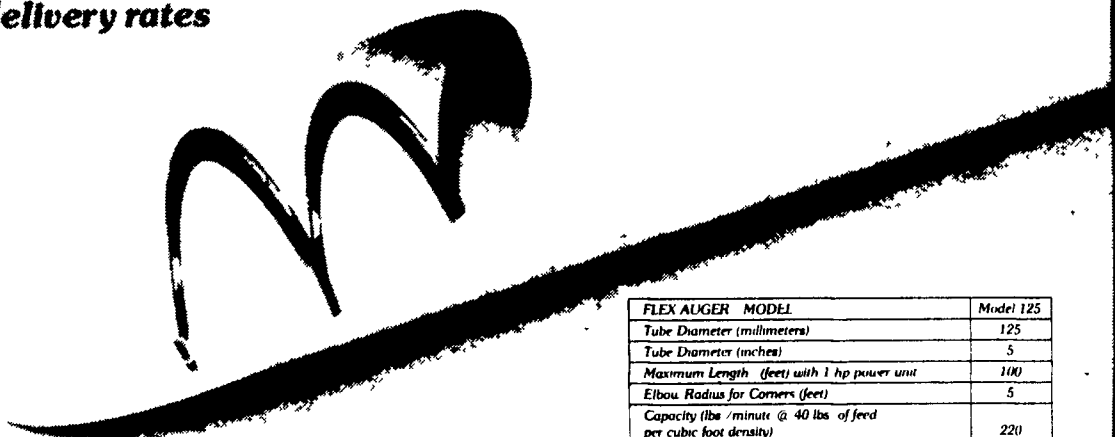


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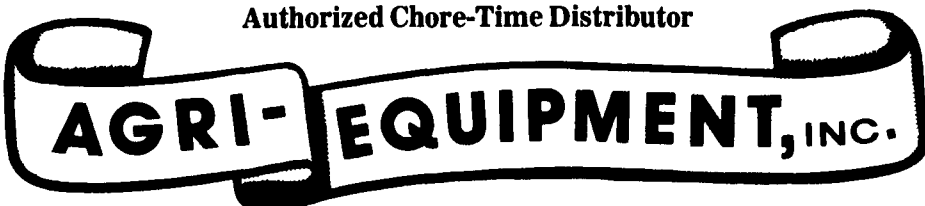
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