

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Everyday is different around here. Naturally, some are good and some are rather bad. Last week I stopped at a friend's

house to have her catalog some antique "cup plates" that I have. These pressed pattern flint glass, known as "Sandwich glass," were used to set teacups on as people drank their tea from the saucer. What I didn't expect was the big box of herbs that she gave me. So, despite the fact that I was doing a lot of extra cleaning, as I expected guests for several meals, I dug a plot and planted them. It was necessary to remove some tansy and lemon balm to make room for the tarragon, chives, anise, sage and basil. As we had an inch of rain soon afterwards, I believe they will all survive the transplanting. Then came the day when I did an unusual thing. I do not turn off

alarm clocks and go back to sleep but on this particular day I did just that. It was Primary Election Day and I was to sit at the polls all day and "work." As I skipped breakfast, I arrived only a few minutes late but I can't say that I "worked." The turnout was very light and we had plenty of extra time to catch up on the news. We had hoped to have a herds-

man working for us this summer. However, a phone call informed us that he had a badly broken ankle and could not be on his feet for two months. Now we have the problem of finding other help. I suppose that we better not count on using the boat very often that Allen bought this winter. But, we still hope that we will at least have a chance to try a bit of fishing now and then.

Shared Holiday Seeks Host Families

The Shared Holiday Program, Lancaster's own version of the "fresh air" program, is seeking persons to serve as host families. The program will be accepting applications until June 16. If you would like to become a host family or would like more information, contact Ellen Mellinger-Blouch at 291-2261.

Sparrows Face Extinction

(Continued from Page B10)

the Bee Line a veritable "ghost road" for 10 years. Out-of-control forest fires, started by nearby ranchers who wished to clear their lands for grazing, swept over the dusky's areas many times. By spring 1979, there were 13 males left on the St. Johns marsh, none at all on Merritt Island.

Fish and Wildlife then ordered the capture of all dusky seaside sparrows. No females were found. Five males were brought to Santa Fe Community College Teaching Zoo in Gainesville. There scientists and officials continued their fighting, this time over the philosophical right to "crossbreed" the birds. The argument prevented the experiment for two crucial mating seasons.

"I know it is impossible to save everything. But why commit aggravated assault on nature?" asks Jim Ellis, who directs the nation's only collegiate teaching zoo. "People come in and say, 'What a waste of money on a few lousy sparrows.' But, un-

fortunately, most people don't see the future.

"What are we going to do about the St. Johns River? The dusky is at the headwaters there. The dusky is gone. You have fish kills out there. The nanatee is in trouble. How many species does it take before you realize that the whole river may be in trouble?"

Who Hears It Fall?
Fish and Wildlife finally agreed to permit crossbreeding — if taxpayers were spared the considerable cost. Nudged by Florida Audubon, Disney officials agreed to take on the \$100,000 annual cost of maintaining the breeding the final diskies.

It was all done secretly, without public announcement. But proper message is there, says Cook:

"It's like a tree that falls in the woods. If no one hears it, who knows it fell? The dusky will fall in the woods and it will be passing news. That's not right. We want people to see and hear about this. Extinction is forever. And here we are tasting it."

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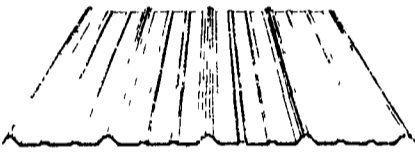
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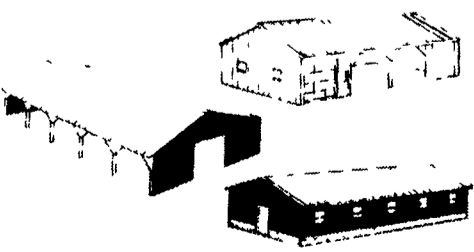
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