

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Our farm contains a lot of woodland. It is easy to see the woods and not notice individual trees. Such is the case in a stand of beech trees that surround one of our 19 summer cottages. Long ago I remember that one of

these trees situated along the bank of the river had a bench built against one side of it. And, on the smooth gray bark was carved many initials and dates. Now over 50 years later these are still visible, but some are difficult to

read. Over the years these American beech have spread and now dominate the forest growth in this area. Only recently did I really notice the small triangular nut — that was when I sat on some of the prickly shells. I'd just finished pushing a wheelbarrow load of ear corn through the field and since I was tired I decided to sit on the veranda of a nearby cottage. A huge oak tree grows against the building and a squirrel was sitting on a limb just over my head. He didn't seem to notice my presence as he continued to eat his nut while I rested. There are many kinds of trees in our woods including giant ash trees and many black walnuts along fence rows. There are sycamores and basswood or linden trees along the river. One of our largest oaks was hit by lightning last year. Of course, we have "weed" trees

too such as sumacs, ailanthus and boxelder. My father spent many a day girdling a large group of sumacs that had taken over a corner of his pastureland. But somehow they managed to come

back again. I do hate to see these huge trees cut down for lumber but I also realize that if they are not removed now, they will rot as was the case of an enormous tulip poplar behind our house.

Save Money With Homemade Halloween Costumes

YORK — Halloween is approaching and your children are probably starting to think of the "perfect" costume for the big night of trick or treating. Save money and foster creativity by helping them design their own costumes this year, says Extension Home Economist A. Joan Lamberson.

For inspiration they might think of favorite cartoon characters or look at coloring books or storybooks. Rummage through your attic and basement for old clothing and other articles that could be turned into imaginative costumes.

Boxes with holes for arms can be painted or colored. Smaller children can decorate large paper sacks, then cut holes for head and arms.

Try looking into an old clothes bag for garments that, with a little

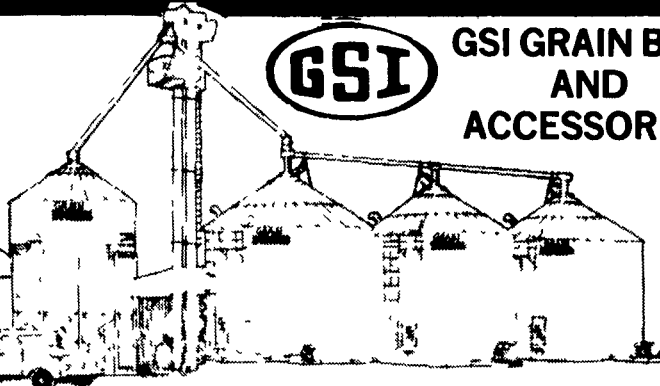
pinning or quick sewing, will create a young witch or fairy princess. Think of unusual ways to use old clothes for costumes. Pajama bottoms with feet can be stuffed, then used for an upside-down hat. An old skirt can be worn around the neck with holes cut out for the arms. A little basting can make old fabric scraps or old sheets and towels the perfect touch for a creative costume.

What types of sports equipment do you have around your house? Can you put together a football uniform, tennis outfit or a wet suit?

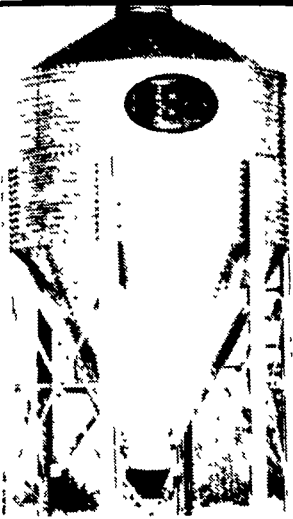
Instead of masks, try letting children decorate their faces. Inexpensive makeup or colored chalk can be used. You can even use watercolor paints if a good base or hand lotion is first applied to the face. To create a ghostly effect, apply flour over a hand lotion base. Makeup is safer than a mask, which can inhibit vision.

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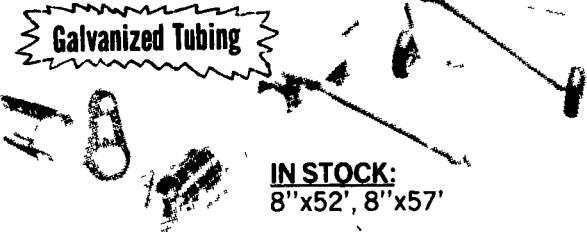
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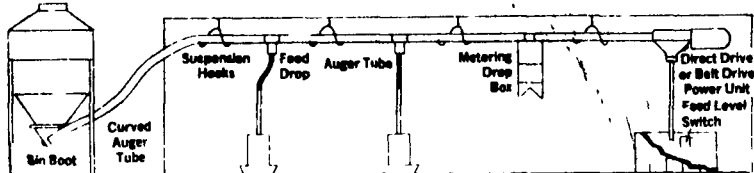
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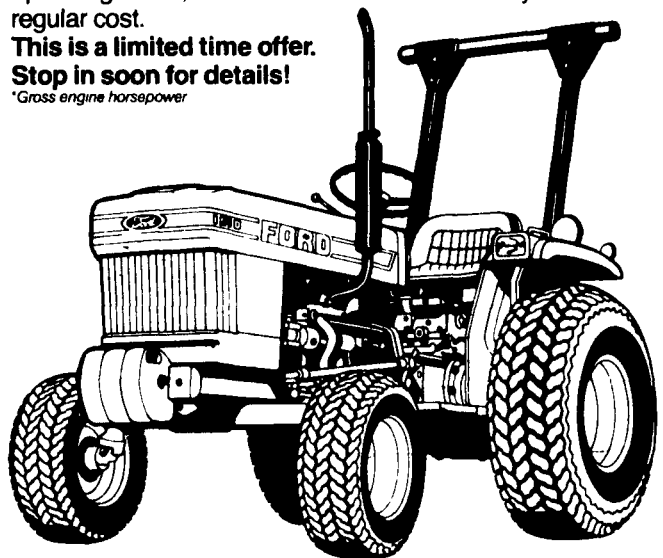
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