

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



My Christmas cards are sent but not all of my decorations are in place. When all the trimmings are on the tree and all of the wreaths are on the doors, I feel as though I've really accomplished something. So, I leave them up for a week or more after Christmas is over.

Now if I can just find time to make a few more kinds of cookies I'll be ready to pack some boxes for my Amish neighbors. This has become a tradition at our house as we visit and take gifts at Christmastime.

When the children come home, it is like old times. They relieve me

of cooking every now and then and they do odd jobs for me.

Cindy put straw on the three long rows of strawberries and she made some cookies too. She even managed to rehang the heavy bird feeder that the wind blew down the other week.

The other morning, I was watching some pheasants along a fence row. Then discovered that I wasn't the only one watching them as suddenly a large red fox dashed the width of the field but did not catch any of them. Later his red-orange fur shone in the morning sunshine as he slinked down toward the river.

When we have out-of-state guests, we often visit some of Lancaster County's historical institutions. This way I get to see the museums and educational

exhibits quite often. Recently we went through the twenty some buildings at the Cloisters in Ephrata. This radical 18th century religious communal society is well

known for their music, publishing center, Germanic architecture and their art. Imagine using a wooden block for a pillow after a hard day's work!

Ag Agent Walker Wins Service Award

NEWARK, Del. — Derby Walker, University of Delaware agricultural extension agent for Sussex County, was presented an award for meritorious service to the Peninsula Horticultural Society at its recent centennial banquet.

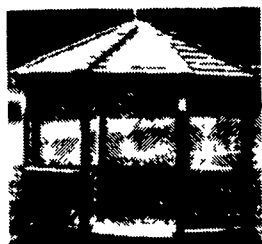
Walker, 40, has served as assistant secretary of the Pen Hort Society since 1974. His grandfather was one of the original founders of the society, which is open to all growers, producers and marketers

of commercial vegetable and fruit crops.

A 1968 graduate of the University of Delaware in horticultural science, Walker also holds a master of science degree in plant science. He worked as an assistant agent for the Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension System until 1973, when he joined the Delaware Extension System in Sussex County.

A resident of Laurel, Walker is married and has two children.

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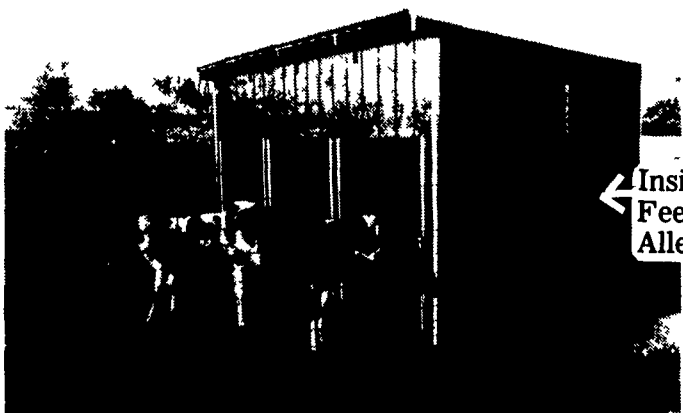
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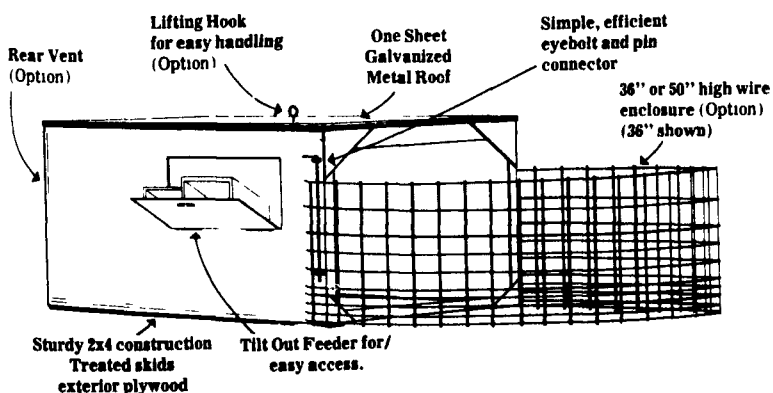
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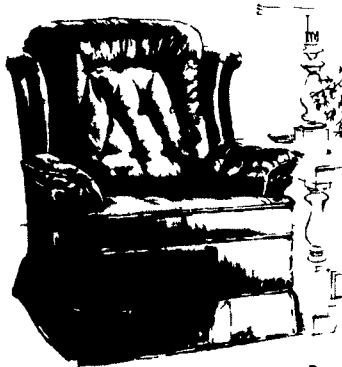
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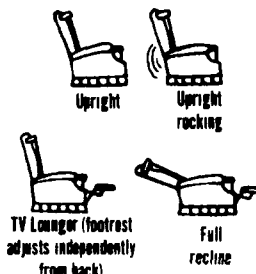


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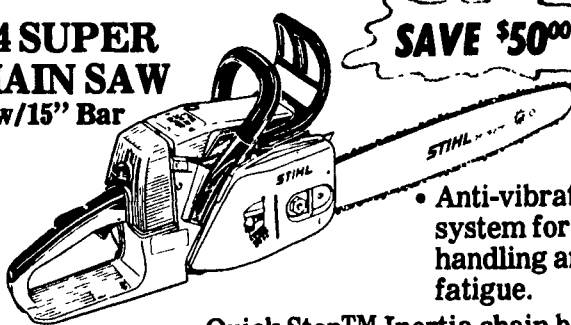
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Except for soft, unripened cheeses such as cottage cheese or cream cheese, all cheese tastes better served unchilled. Cheese usually requires from twenty minutes to an hour at room temperature to bring out its distinctive flavor and texture.

To keep eggnog cold in the punch bowl, float a ring of frozen eggnog. Fruit garnishes frozen into the mold add a bright touch. Place the pieces of fruit and carefully add eggnog to cover. Freeze. Then fill mold with eggnog and freeze.

Fold a condiment such as prepared mustard or horseradish into whipped cream to create a delicious accompaniment for meats. This type of flavored cream tastes especially good with roast beef, boiled brisket, corned beef or ham.

On special occasions, offer your guests double-thick butter pats cut from a stick of butter. Accent the serving plate with small sprigs of parsley.

Whipped cream flavored with liqueur becomes an elegant ingredient for desserts. Whip 1 cup whipping cream and sweeten to taste. Fold in 1 to 2 tablespoons of your favorite liqueur. Turn simple fresh fruit into a special treat with this garnish, or use to top after-dinner coffee and compatibly flavored crepes or pies.

We wish you all a Blessed Christmas

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We are open Mon. & Tues. evenings Dec. 22 and 23 till 8 pm and we close at 5 pm Dec. 24. Closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

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