

Reluctant Contestant

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



These are busy days as my husband and I prepare for a "once in a lifetime" trip to Alaska. We will be gone a couple weeks and we also expect to spend several days with our daughter and her family in Seattle.

The suitcases are partially packed and I'm making a list of things that should be done while we're gone. I've planned my garden so that only beans and tomatoes need to be harvested while I'm away. There were no cucumbers planted as I have a good supply from last year and they are something that need a lot of attention.

Then two days before we fly west, I notice that our big patch of sweet corn has been invaded and many stalks broken off despite the fact that it is only now pushing tassles. So, my husband has to take

time to put an electric fence around the plot to keep the raccoons out.

We've bought film for our cameras and checked on our passports as we'll spend some time in Yukon territory in Canada. The list of personal items to take along seems endless as we pack our suitcases and hope that we don't forget something important.

We would not be able to go if our son, Philip, had not come home and formed a partnership with his father. He will be a busy young man as he milks some 60 cows twice a day and tries to make hay between milking and feeding. There won't be much time for anything except the most necessary things.

We are looking forward to cooler weather and a relaxing vacation.

(Continued from Page B14)

The requirement of traveling throughout Pennsylvania promoting the poultry industry is appealing to Teresa, and she says she is looking forward to getting to know people and organizations from around the state. She said she has already enjoyed meeting the staff people from the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, and she will be eager to learn more about Pennsylvania and Lancaster County agriculture.

She states, "Working with the state is an extra bonus. I'll really enjoy it."

So far, the celebrity which goes with being a commodity queen has been fun for Teresa, if somewhat embarrassing. She said, "I'm not used to getting so much attention. I've had several phone calls every day. I'm still getting used to the newness of it. I'm enjoying it, but I know I haven't got my feet wet so far."

At the end of August, Teresa will return to Messiah where she will not only be a student but will work as a student manager of the student center, a job which

requires meeting visitors and doing public relations for the College. She also hopes to find time for intramural volleyball, but acknowledges that her schedule will be full with her new title.

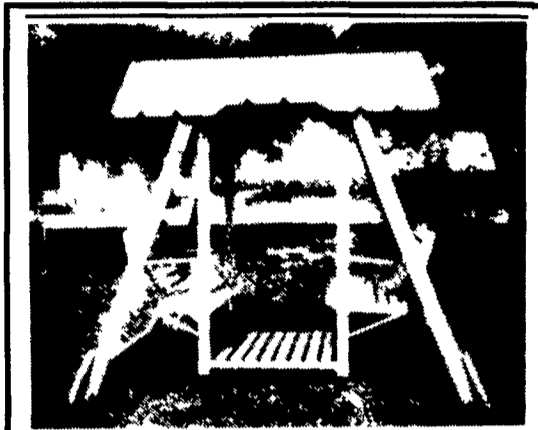
She thinks her new job at college and her new position as Poultry Queen will fit nicely together, because both will require the ability to meet the public, and some new, dressier clothing. Her prize money to be used toward a wardrobe will serve double duty.

Part of the enjoyment of entering the contest was getting to know the other contestants, and Teresa said that she is looking forward to doing a lot of promotional work

with Lonna Rohrer, the alternate queen. She acknowledges that the contest was a "lot of fun," but adds, "I was exhausted by the end of the night."

In her free time, Teresa is active in the youth group at church, and enjoys writing letters to her friends during summer. She also hopes to continue her canoeing with her father.

For now, Teresa is proudly wearing the crown and banner of the dual title of Lancaster County Poultry Queen and the Pennsylvania Poultry Queen, and she is confident she will be having an exciting year of personal growth while promoting both eggs and poultry.



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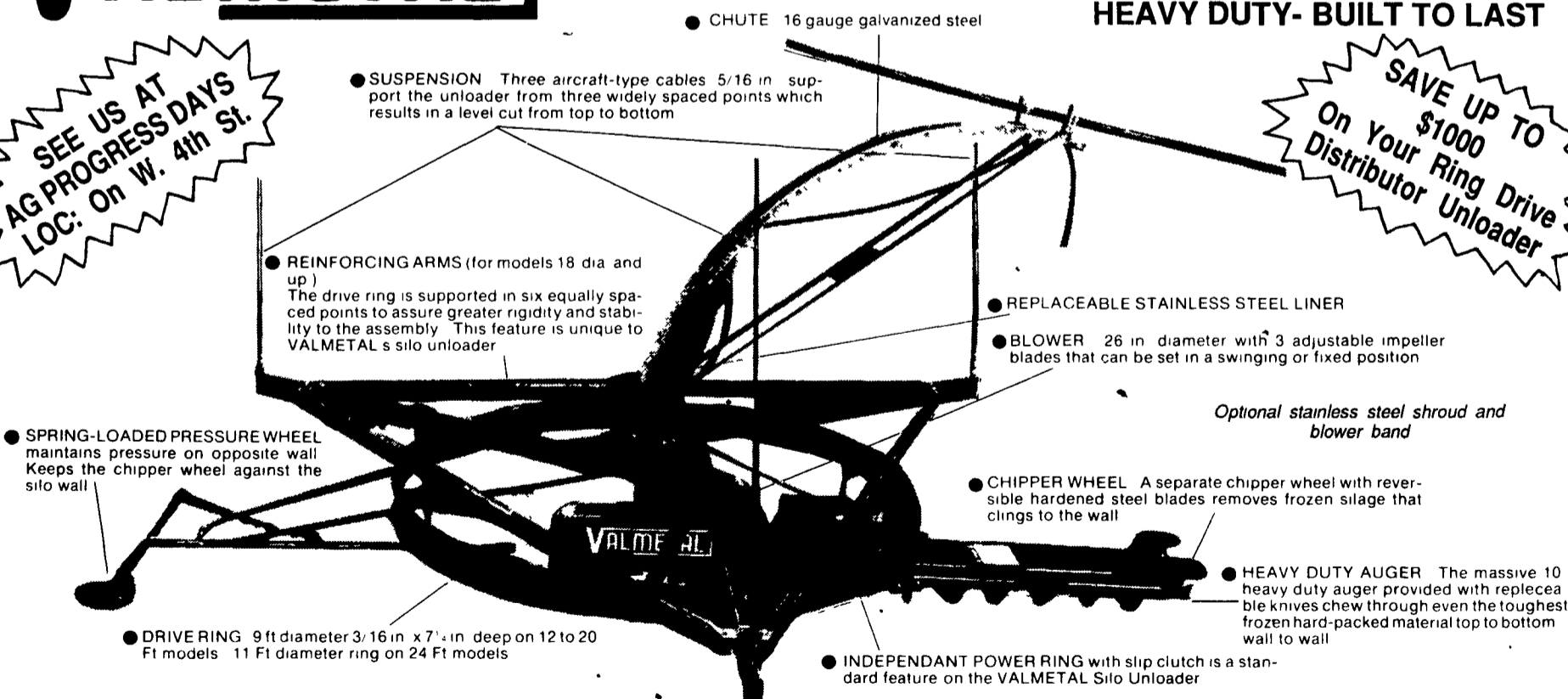
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