

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



cellulose fiber is used to make many paper products.

A broth of lignin, carbohydrates and sugars and other materials is a by-product. It is evaporated and used as fuel. In the plant, robots move paper from one place to another; it is very interesting to see them working alongside 3,000 employees.

Hardwood and softwood are combined to make large rolls weighing one and one-half tons. These are then decorated, perforated, rewound, cut, wrapped and put in cartons. The railroad cars come into the warehouse buildings for loading.

Procter and Gamble started in Wisconsin in 1892 and now have some 30 plants all over the United States. I was surprised to learn that in Mehoopany, an area known as "The Endless Mountains" since Indian days, the very first products shipped out were farm and wood products and wild huckleberries. I know from experience that that was a big job to pick wild huckleberries in large quantities.

I really must get back to Christmas preparations as we expect some thirty family members both Saturday and Sunday after Christmas.

Deadly Guest On Your Canning Shelves

In this article, we'll be studying *Clostridium botulinum*, a rod-shaped bacteria. This bacteria grows best in anaerobic (reduced oxygen) conditions. When we process foods, we try to force the air out of the canning jars. Since oxygen is reduced inside the jar, it is a perfect place for the botulinum bacteria to grow.

Low acid vegetables like green beans, corn, or peas may pick up botulinum spores from the soil, and if safe canning procedures are not followed these spores may grow and produce toxins (poisons). The risk is greater if food is improperly home canned.

The botulinum spore is tough. High cooking temperatures will kill the normal botulinum cell, but will not kill the spore. Pressure canning produces high enough temperatures to kill the spores. This is why canning is done with a pressure canner. However, if safe canning procedures are not followed, the spores will not be killed and can become normal cells again and produce the deadly toxin.

Fortunately, this is a rare type of food poisoning. It is deadly, though.

Symptoms will occur 12 to 48 hours after eating contaminated food. They include mild stomach upset and overall listlessness, dizziness, and headache with blurred or double vision. The poison attacks the nervous system; finally causing trouble swallowing and difficulty breathing. The person eventually suffocates because the nerves no longer stimulate breathing.

Prevention - Carefully examine any canned food, especially home canned which looks suspicious. Danger signs to look for include suspicious odor, milky liquids (which should be clear), cracked jars, loose lids, and swollen cans or lids.

Don't use canned goods showing any of these signs. The old adage still applies "If in doubt, throw it out!" Don't even taste the food. Botulinum is very deadly, even a small amount.

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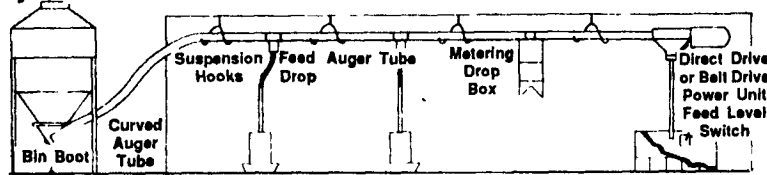
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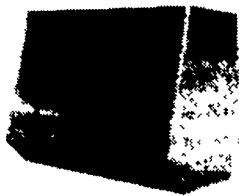
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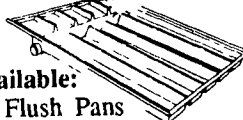
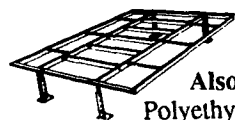
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