

Ida's Notebook



Ida Risser

As I pondered as to what I should write about this week, the phone rang. It was another wrong number. People who get wrong numbers seem to be divided into two different groups. One will say, "I'm sorry" and hang up. The other

kind will insist that "Sadie or whoever" is there and they want to talk to her. After all, they could not have dialed a wrong number!

Personally, I don't know how we would get along without a telephone. Not only for the business of

running a dairy farm but for keeping in touch with a far-flung family. It is reassuring to know that one can communicate so easily.

But there are times when the phone seems to achieve too much importance. Suppose you are in a store or office and no matter the urgency of your business, if the telephone rings, you will be left standing while the phone is answered. Recently, I heard a woman complain that after paying for her merchandise, the phone rang and she was left to wait and wait for her change while the telephone was answered.

I'll admit that somehow we did manage to live here, isolated from everyone, for several years without a telephone. Every need for a phone meant a drive in the car for over a mile to the nearest phone at a garage. This was a definite disadvantage when the barn burned and

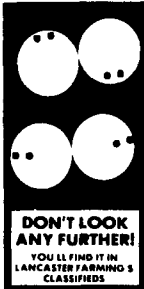
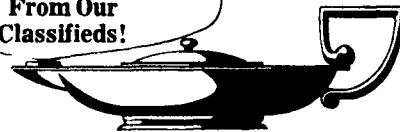
we had to hunt and hunt for a phone as people were not at home.

After paying a high price and building our own line down a long lane, we finally were put on a line with nine other families. The kinds

of rings that we heard were unbelievable and at all hours of the night. One hardly appreciates a private line until one remembers how very busy that long ago phone was when we wanted to use it.

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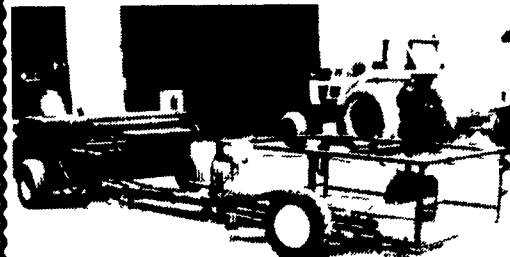
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