

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Winter days can get rather humdrum. Many jobs are monotonous such as cooking and cleaning. It is a time to mend my husband's work clothes and take down all of the curtains and wash them by hand.

However, our children did something to spice-up the season. As our 40th wedding anniversary fell on a Sunday, they invited friends and relatives to share the day with us.

After a nice restaurant meal with Philip, Lisa and Cindy, they took us to our church lounge. It is a very large room with lots of upholstered chairs and sofas.

It was beautifully decorated with red and white flowers. There was a large three-tiered cake with fresh flowers on the top. I still have those red carnations and baby's breath on the kitchen table. All of the refreshments were delicious

and attractive too.

Some of the folks we had not seen for quite a while, and it was a pleasant surprise to have them there. Others had been square dancing with us the night before and of course never mentioned that they'd see us the next day.

My sister gave red roses and when I wrote a thank-you to her, I mentioned that they lasted longer than the few short hours of the gathering.

Even though our children from Seattle, Atlanta and Memphis could not be with us, they did telephone in the evening, and it was quite interesting to read the notes that people wrote as they remembered years past.

It is wonderful to have friends to share life's adventures with and relatives upon whom you can count. God has blessed us with six marvelous children, good health and a nice home in the spectacular United States of America.

Rural Women To Learn About Harvesting Potential

DES MOINES — The third annual rural women's conference "Harvesting Our Potential," will be held in Des Moines, Iowa on March 4-5, 1988. The conference, which has expanded to the national level will be held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines. Prairiefire Rural Action, Inc. and the Iowa Inter-Church Agency for Peace and Justice are again sponsors for the conference.

The theme of this year's conference, "Harvesting Our Potential—Past, Present, Future," will coincide with Women's History Month. Workshops and keynote addresses will revolve around the theme of women's participation in social change with an emphasis on rural America.

The conference will begin Friday afternoon with workshops and other related activities. Meridel LeSueur a longtime activist from Minnesota will give the keynote

address Friday evening. A one-woman play "Ain't I A Woman," presented by Shirlene Holmes of Carbondale, Illinois will portray the life of Sojourner Truth, an important agent of social change during the mid 1800's.

Workshop topics for the weekend will include "Is the Farm Crisis Really Over?" "Farmer - Labor Solidarity," "Women in Politics," "International Trade Issues," "Why Isn't My Church Speaking To Me?" and "Displacement From the Land." Presenters will come from across the country and Canada.

The first "Harvesting Our Potential" conference was held in January 1986 with 400 women from Iowa attending. The conference has gained wide recognition and it is anticipated that over 500 women from all over the United States will be attending the March conference.

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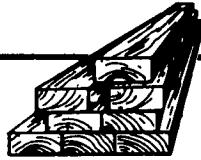
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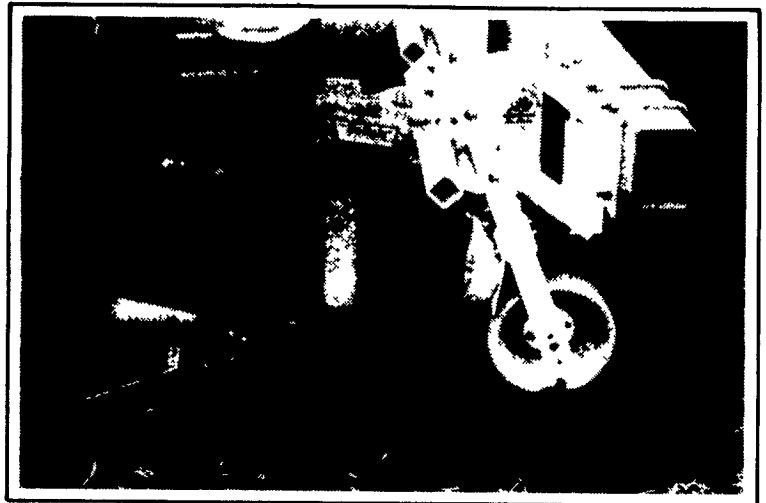
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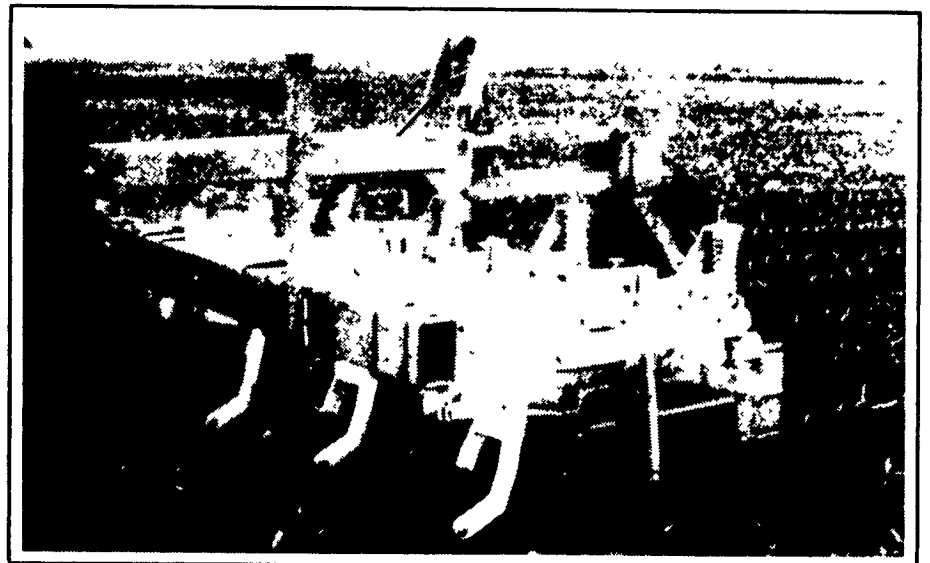


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