

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

The older one gets the faster time seems to pass. The days slip by and one has to pause to decide if it is Tuesday or Wednesday. As a child it took forever for a birthday to come or Christmas to arrive with presents. But now it seems as though Labor Day will be here before I'm ready for it.

Time has a tendency to separate families unless one works very hard to prevent it from happening. As children grow up and move away from home, they no longer move to the next farm as I did but rather travel out of state wherever the jobs take them.

We had a family picnic recently and were rather disappointed at the turnout. Only four of the 19 first cousins attended. Of course many had a good reason such as the hun-

dreds and thousands of miles they would have had to travel while others simply do not seem interested in "family."

As times goes by we not only have children to keep track of but also grandchildren. I fear that some of them will never get to know each other. Long ago my mother often told me which of my neighbors were second or third cousins but now some second cousins in my family might not even ever meet.

Thank goodness there are telephones and so there is no good excuse for not keeping in touch. And, if you are like me, you write many letters during the year. Often I will include photos and newspaper clippings that I think will interest the recipient.

Beef: More For Your Money

HARRISBURG (Dauphin) — While the nationwide drought has created real problems for farmers and driven up prices of many food products, consumers can get "more for your money, by buying beef this summer," says Bob Coleman, executive director of the Pennsylvania Beef Council.

With this year's drought, cattlemen moved many more cattle to market early. U.S. production of beef was up four percent in May and another three percent in June over 1987. At the same time, production of all red meats in May was up eight percent over 1987 and June production was seven percent greater than a year earlier. "As a result of these increased supplies, pressure has been put on beef prices which dropped as much as 12-13 percent," Coleman says.

"As drought conditions gradually ease, the situation for cattlemen is getting better and prices should

continue moving upward. So smart consumers may want to buy beef and beef products now, stocking up for the summer. This will save them money, and potentially help speed the recovery for prices for cattle at market."

Prices for many farm commodities are forced upward in a drought situation. With fruits, vegetables and grain products, the direct effect of a drought is a cutback in supply, which drives consumer prices up. Other farm product prices may increase because farmers' costs of production increase. But the situation for cattlemen is a little different.

As the cost of feeding cattle increases, cattlemen may take animals to market early, thus cutting their costs of production. At the same time, this action at least temporarily increases supplies of beef available to consumers and forces prices down.

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Lana Holland

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from Lana's dairy judging experience. She enjoyed judging but was not accurate on anything but Jerseys. This led Lana to want a brown "deer like," bovine. Her father and brothers questioned where this Jersey would be kept on the farm so it would not get "pushed around by the Holsteins," in the end, Lana convinced them to buy a Jersey in Delaware. Bambi, as the calf came to be called, did well for Lana in both the fitting and showing portion of the dairy shows. Lana enjoyed showing a smaller animal than the big Holsteins she was accustomed to. To this day there is no question as to where Bambi stays on the farm because she is the one who pushes the Holsteins around despite her size.

Lana's public speaking career not only included speeches about cows but also presentations on two other interests, music and cats. For relaxation, Lana enjoys playing the piano. She has taken piano lessons for a number of years and it shows, as she is an accomplished musician. While in high school Lana played for graduation, chorus, and jazz band as well as playing for drama presentations. Lana takes her music study very seriously, and will be taking that thought

to college with her in the fall, even though she is undecided on what her major will be.

Along with being an accomplished musician, Lana is also athletic. While in high school, Lana was active on the softball and hockey teams. As the hockey team coach, she led her team to the state championship. Currently, Lana works as a lifeguard at a local pool which has kept her busy this summer.

Being crowned Maryland's new dairy princess is not the only crown Lana has worn. In 1987 she was Miss Pocomoke.

Living on a dairy farm does limit the amount of travel one does for leisure, but Lana overcame that obstacle by becoming active in school functions. One of the highlights in Lana's high school career was going to Europe with her foreign language club. This enabled her to tour Paris and Madrid. As a high school senior, Lana was chosen to represent her high school in Maryland's capital, Annapolis. For two weeks Lana stayed with a host family and assisted delegate Mark Pilchard in running errands and doing paperwork. This program enables high school seniors to actively participate in Maryland's government.

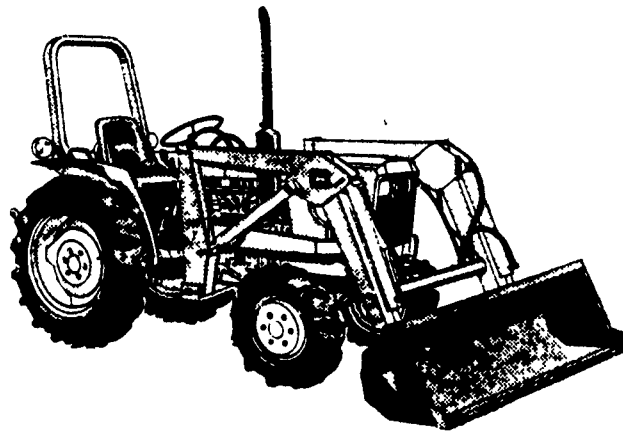
At the age of 17, Lana could not

have been able to achieve many of her goals without her family backing her. Lana, the only daughter, feels very close to her mother. Lana said, "I can count on Mom to pick up the pieces if I see I can't get something done or if I need help. "It was from watching Mom 10 years ago as a dairy princess chairman, that I decided that some day I was going to be the Maryland dairy princess." Lana saw that much work was involved and that it was challenging, a responsibility she gladly tackled.

When asked what she felt about being named the states' new princess her reply was, "Honored," and that, "it really didn't hit me until the morning after the contest, I had to pinch myself to see if it was real." An event Lana looks forward to attending as dairy princess is a Baltimore Orioles baseball game, in which she will get to throw the first ball and meet Cal Ripken, a player and promoter of milk for MAMMA. She will also be attending a variety of breeding meetings, promoting her "magic potion" to elementary school groups as well as attending fairs.

Lana Holland is certainly a goal-oriented teenager who will be setting an example for other young females. Many of the young dairy farmer's daughters who see Lana promoting her "magic potion" throughout the coming year, just might set a goal for themselves to become a state dairy princess, just as Lana Holland did a few years ago!

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