

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



It is odd that over the years some things change drastically while others seem to remain almost the same. I'm thinking of household chores that one does in the fall.

Cleaning is one job that comes to mind. Nowadays a vacuum cleaner will do a good job on rugs but when I lived at my parent's home we had to take up the rag carpets and beat and sweep them outdoors. The ones in the kitchen were taken up every week while

those in the parlor only twice a year.

In the fall we always filled the coal and wood stove oven with ears of corn. Over a period of days the corn dried sufficiently that it could be easily shelled in a big metal tub. Then, I would hope that I'd be allowed to go along to the local mill to have it ground into cornmeal. It was a thrill to sit high up on the seat of a two-horse Columbia wagon. Now, I go to the store and buy a small bag of corn-

meal to make corncake or mush.

Each November I do some of the same things that my grandmother did. I bring in some mint tea and dry it on newspapers for use in the winter. On a cold night the smell of it brewing reminds me of my childhood. But instead of picking quinces off a tree, now I must buy some as it was always a treat that we looked forward to

once a year.

No longer do I chase chickens in order to catch one, chop its head off, and dress it for Sunday dinner. My mother dressed many, many chickens to feed her seven girls. I did the same thing the first years of my marriage but now how easy it is to simply buy one at the supermarket. If you've never gone through the long process from

chicken yard to table you can not appreciate the present convenience.

One thing that hasn't changed much in my life is baking for the family. We still bake two and three layer cakes for birthdays from scratch. There are shoo-fly pies to eat and apple dumplings. Food seems to be one constant need for life on the farm.

Willow Street Graduate

Donald Dodson, a 1987 graduate of Conestoga Valley High school and the Landscape Design/Turf Management Program at Willow Street Vo-Tech, placed second individually at the Eastern Regional Future Farmers of America (FFA) Competition on September 17 and 18, 1988, in Springfield, Mass.

The second place finish earned Dodson a place on the Gold team in the Nursery Landscape

competition.

He also will be part of the team representing Pennsylvania at the FFA National Competition scheduled to begin November 10 in Wichita, Kansas.

The category, sometimes called ornamental landscape, consists of a written test, along with plant identification and demonstrations of proper techniques.

Dodson, the son of Don and Janet Dodson of Lancaster, is

employed by the Lancaster Sheraton Golf Resort and Conference Center. In addition, he also operates his own landscape design business. He plans to enroll in Penn State University in 1989.



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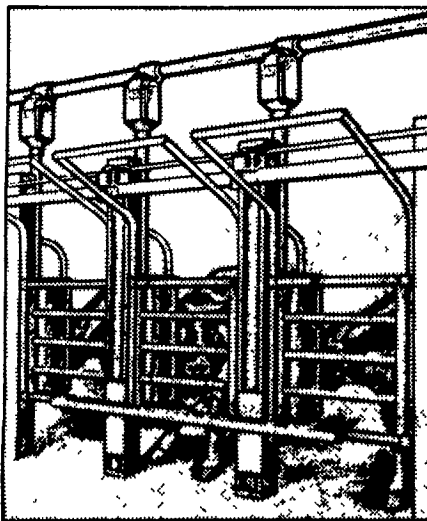
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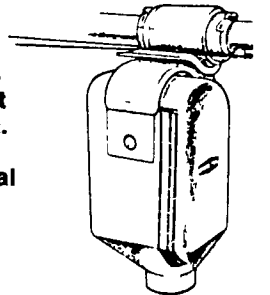
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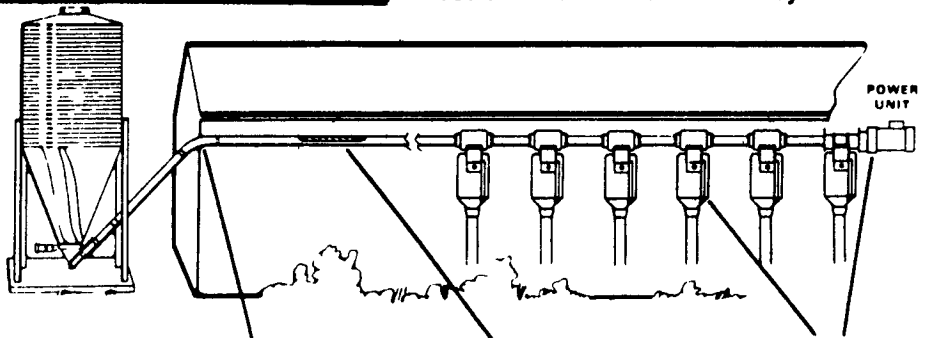
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