

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Almost Christmas and the tree is finally up and decorated. When one has to do this alone, it is not much fun. It seems that I have more Christmas spirit after the

holiday than before it. As a child, I and my sisters hung our long, brown cotton stockings on the chair rail in the kitchen. When we came down-

stairs Christmas morning, to the only room that was heated, we usually found an orange and hard candy in the toe of our stockings. It wasn't considered necessary to have stocking stuffer gifts in those days.

However, I remember enjoying hunting for just the right little gifts for our children. One year our youngest wanted a mouse for Christmas. Yes, she wanted a mouse! Finally I was able to find a tiny white and pink toy mouse for her. We took a picture of her holding her new toy and joy simply shone from her eyes.

When I was a youngster, I was always expected to say a "piece" at our church. The one thing to look forward to was the small box of chocolate candy that we were

given afterwards. Of course, we were not to eat any in the car, but sometimes we did.

When our son was to give a recitation for a Christmas program, we instructed him to tuck his shirt in his pants. Well, he did. But, the whole procedure took place on the stage while he gave his little speech — children.

We just had our ninth grand-

child as Philip and Lisa, who are farming here, had a son. They named him "Bradley" and according to my book of names for babies that means, "from the broad meadow." I told his mother that was an appropriate name as every morning before he was born, she had walked among the cows and checked on them as they lay in the broad meadow.

Contest Recognizes 4-H'ers

NEWARK, DE — The top 4-H public speakers in the state had an opportunity to compete during the meeting of the Delaware State Grange annual session this month in Lewes. According to University of Delaware area 4-H agent Joy G. Sparks, the contest encourages excellence in the 4-H public speaking program.

"We were pleased with the quality of the presentation and the topics our 4-H'ers chose," says Sparks.

Farmington resident Rickie Smith, 13, took top honors in the junior division. The grandson of Marvin and Louise Smith spoke on "A Step Up." He shared his experiences of moving from elementary school to junior high school, where he ran for a student government office. Smith is a member of the Peach Blossoms 4-H club.

Christy Vanderwende of Greenwood took second place, junior division, with a speech about humor and laughter titled "The Best Medicine." The 11-year-old daughter of Dan and Becky Vanderwende represented the Dublin Hill 4-H club.

Townsend resident Ricky

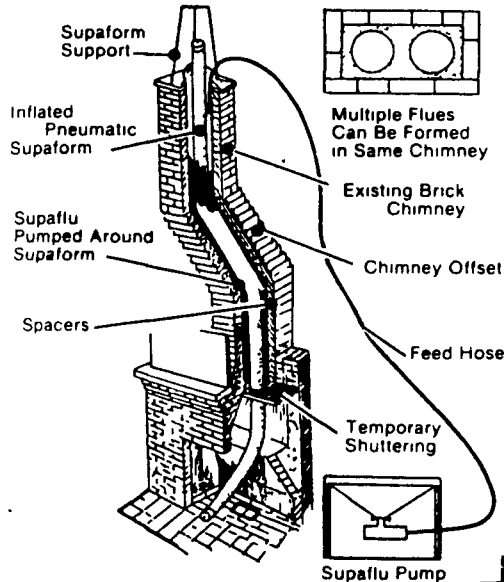
Short, 14, won third place in the junior division with his speech "The Wonderful World of Disney." In his presentation he shared his experiences of a special guest tour of Disneyland. The Blackbird 4-H club member is the son of Linda and Bob Short.

Sixteen-year-old Ann Shellenbarger of Wilmington took top honors in the senior division. Her speech, "Foster Care," included personal testimony on how she has benefited from having foster brothers and sisters in her home. Shellenbarger, a member of the Hill 'N Dale 4-H club, is the daughter of Robert and Betty Shellenbarger.

Karen Hudson of Harrington took second place in the senior division with her speech "Relax." Her presentation included 14 steps to reducing stress. The 15-year-old daughter of Cliff and Judy Hudson is a member of the Viola Fire Flies 4-H club.

The 4-H public speaking program is sponsored nationally by Unocal of Schaumburg, Ill. Awards for the Delaware state 4-H public speaking contest were provided by the Delaware 4-H Foundation.

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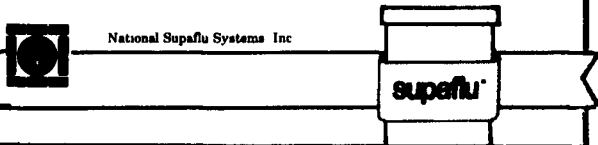
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A special greeting and heartfelt thanks to everyone on the farm. Your dedication and hard work make it possible for us all to enjoy the holidays with good food and good cheer. Have a great Christmas!

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