



Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

Almost Christmas and it will be here on Wednesday whether we are ready or not. The cards are sent and the cookies are baked. There were enough decorations collected over the years to have two trees. But, the problem is where to put them. We considered buying one to plant outside later. This would naturally be a small tree and I could not use very many ornaments. My husband wanted one put in a picture window where my plants are placed. We tried to please both of us.

We expect Christmas to be a quiet day but can't say as much for the following weekend as we've invited our close relatives to an open house. If only half come, we'll still have about 50 people. But, we built our new house with this in mind and feel we have ample room to accommodate everyone. The living room and dining room have a large opening between them. And, our kitchen and family room are another large room with beams on a cathedral ceiling. We hope to have a fire in the floor-to-ceiling fireplace.

My husband is very good at building a fire and he enjoys doing it. I know that I can also get a fire started as I often had to do just that in our big wood stove on the farm.

My father was always very explicit in giving directions as to when we were allowed to use cobs dipped in kerosene. And, he should have been!

I'm remembering back to a Christmas when I was about six years old. My great aunts had given me a kid-bodied German doll with real hair and beautiful eyes. However, it was placed high up on the piano and I was not allowed to play with it that day or any other day. Tears did not get my mother to give it to me. Today it is worth many dollars, but I still wish that I could have held it in my arms that Christmas day.

Pork Video Makes Grade With Teachers

CHICAGO, Ill. — Almost 40 percent of U.S. home economics teachers that use videos to educate students want a copy of the pork industry's first video kit on nutrition, preparation and animal care.

The Pork Industry Group's *Around the World with Pork*, funded by the pork checkoff through the National Pork Board, gives home economics students the knowledge about how to purchase, store and prepare pork as well as reassure them about how fresh pork fits into a heart-healthy diet. A segment with Illinois pork producer Bob Brauer also educates students about how animals are carefully raised to

provide wholesome products.

"This is a very appropriate time for the pork industry to get this message about its much improved nutritional profile and new cookery guidelines into the classroom. School education programs establish a positive foundation for industry efforts to increase consumer demand," says Lowell Gemar, Fullerton, N.D., chairman of the Meat Board Pork Industry Group Information Committee.

The kit consists of a 19-minute video, teacher's guide, reproducible student activity sheets, wall chart of pork cuts and an evaluation form used to help gauge the program's effectiveness.

Peace to all...

Rejoice...
in the
celebration
of His birth...
and the bright
promise that
He brought to
all mankind.
May your
hearts be filled
with gladness
during this
special time of
the year.



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Peace on Earth



His birth brought love and hope to all mankind...embracing hearts with joy and spirits with true peace. Let the celebration of this holy day fill each of us with renewed happiness, as we share in thanks for the many blessings we behold.



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