

**Ida's
Notebook
Ida Risser**

There is so much crime reported in the papers and on the television. The other evening as I sat reading the newspaper, the thought struck me that not only today but in years past there were a lot of crimes committed. Some stories of those that happened to our families have been passed down by word-of-mouth for generations.

My grandparents had gold coins stolen and felt that it was probably by someone who worked for them. The jelly jars were carefully set off the windowsill and put on the floor as though entrance was gained in that manner from the outside.

Then my great-grandfather's brother was murdered by a hired man in the tobacco stripping room on his farm. This happened in the process of stealing money. Later his wife would sit and rock and rock in her chair and say, "If only he had taken just the money."

My husband's relatives who lived in a western state met an ear-

ly death when a hired boy wiped out a whole family. He was disgruntled over not being allowed to marry a young daughter of the farmer for whom he worked.

My father had a problem with thieves stealing his chickens. So, he strung a wire from the hen house door under a fence railing around the garden, through a summerhouse and upstairs through the main house to the headboard above his pillow.

One night the alarm went off and he took his shotgun and stealthily crept out into the garden next to the chicken house. When the thieves came out with their bags of chickens, he told them to "stop." Well, they shot and he shot and they ran. Later the police found slugs in the side of the buildings. He was very lucky or maybe I should say foolish.

As we all know crimes have been committed from the beginning of time and probably will continue in the future.

**Men Capture Top Honors
In Make It With Wool Contest**

ORLANDO, Fla.— For the first time in the history of the Make It Yourself With Wool Competition, two young men won top honors in the finals at the American Sheep Industry Convention on January 11. The 69 finalists from 36 states put on a fashion show with professional choreography, sound, lighting and hair design. The show was attended by an enthusiastic crowd of 250.

Garments ranged from elegant evening gowns to business suits to a jacket that converts into a tote bag. A special award was given for most creative use of wool and won by senior finalist Anne Jelly of Los Angeles, who designed a short plaid suit with a heart-shaped cut-out design on the jacket. Awards for best use of mohair went to Andy Beard of Goldthwaite, Texas, and Hannah Good of Mason, Mich.

Andy beard also won the junior division with a bomber-style jacket made from a Pendleton southwestern blanket and a wool and mohair sweater of his own design. The high school sophomore, who raises Angora rabbits and Simmental cattle, was president of his sophomore class, plays varsity football and basketball and made the all-district football team last year.

The senior division was won by Nebraskan Jamie Baden of Alexandria with a 100-percent wool jacket and slacks which he designed himself. Baden is a freshman at Missouri Western State College majoring in dentistry. He has been involved in 4-H

for 11 years and has completed more than 90 projects.

The senior division runners-up were Claudine Eckert, Mo. (6th); Susan Berkahn, Waukesha, Wis. (5th); Jimmi Kaye Alexander, Milton-Freewater, Ore. (4th); Traci Metzger, Elida, Ohio (3rd); Amy Lakatos, Somerville, N.J. (2nd); and Brenda Hoy, Laramie, Wyo. (1st).

Junior division runners-up: Michal Ann Shull, Bend, Ore.

(6th); Rachel Eggiman, Jackson, Minn. (5th); Amy Moxley, Council Grove, Kan. (4th); Karie Mislser, Bryan, Ohio (3rd); Jodel Rhoads, Berlin, Pa. (2nd); and Kimberly Greco, Flagstaff, Ariz. (1st).

Prizes included irons, fabric, gift certificates, sewing, knitting and serging machines, up to \$2,000 scholarships and many other items.

Plan Now For Strawberries

RUTGERS, N.J. — By January, memories of June's strawberries may have faded, but anyone thinking about growing strawberries should be planning for them now. Two new Fact Sheets from Rutgers Cooperative Extension will be invaluable in the process "Strawberries in the Home Garden - Establishing the Planting" and "Strawberries in the Home Garden - Maintenance of the Planting", prepared by Extension Specialists and published October 1991, cover all the basic information that gardeners will need.

Site selection is critical; strawberries must have full sun exposure and well-drained soil. Raised beds are recommended in areas where soil is heavy and tends to stay wet.

A descriptive listing of June-bearing cultivars recommended for New Jersey will help gardeners choose the strawberries they want to grow. Day-neutral cultivars are recommended for trial use.

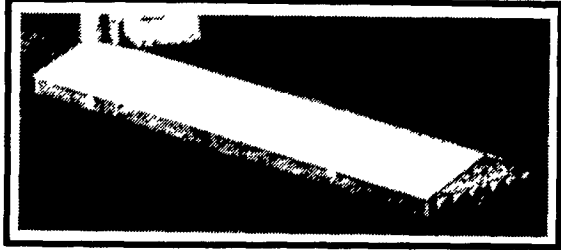
Procedures for planting and fertilization are described and illustrated. Soil testing, the first step, should be done as soon as possible so results are in before planting time - early spring.

Once the planting is established, maintenance is the key to a successful, productive strawberry patch. Weeds must be controlled, winter and frost protection should be provided, and the planting must be renovated annually.

Insect and disease control may be necessary. Common strawberry pests are illustrated, damage described and chemical controls given in the maintenance Fact Sheet. The primary strawberry diseases and controls are also discussed.

Tips for harvest and storage conclude these succinct, complete guides to growing strawberries. These Fact Sheets are available at the Extension Center on Rt. 31, or call (908) 788-1339 to receive them by mail.

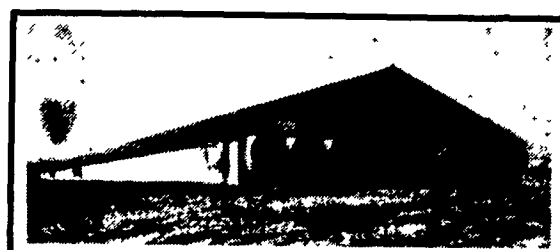
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