

# 4-H Reaches Disadvantage Youths

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Disadvantaged youths and families in Chester County now can participate in trips to parks and camps. They also can be involved in recycling projects and other 4-H activities, as part of the federally funded Youth Educational Programs-Chester County (YEPCC).

YEPCC is supported by Penn State Cooperative Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Services and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. The program offers in-school learning experiences, evening and weekend activities and community projects.

"We're working to strengthen ties among youths, their families and the community," says Laurie Sicko-Sandow, 4-H coordinator in Chester County. "Since it began in March, more than 500 youths aged 5 to 15, in Coatesville, South Coatesville, and Modena have participated."

Some program participants explored six acres of woods and meadows at the Glenmoore Upatinas Educational Resource Center

this past summer. "They saw wildlife and learned how to identify animal tracks. They also learned basic first aid and how to build an emergency shelter," says Sicko-Sandow. "They developed persistence, resourcefulness and an increased respect for nature."

Other participants enhanced their economic skills and future employability through 4-H Learn and Earn for Fun and Profits activities. They got involved in their own enterprises, learning public-speaking skills by taking part in meetings of the local business community.

"Knowing that they can participate in or run a small business does wonders for young people's self-esteem and shows them alternatives for finding jobs," says Sicko-Sandow. "This is especially important since most of these youths come from low-income, high-unemployment areas."

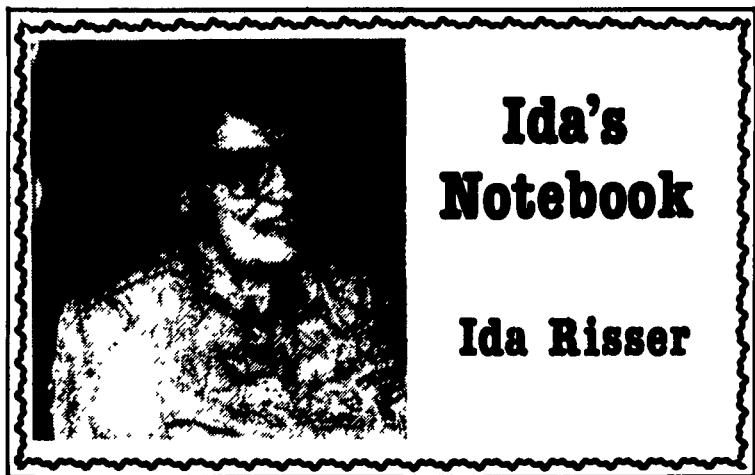
The Chester County program is designed for a wide variety of interests and needs. Other components cover Black history and culture, basic nutrition, dangers of

drug and alcohol abuse, community cleanup, skills necessary for staying home alone and plant and animal care.

"There are no limits to the program," says Sicko-Sandow. "We're enlisting the support of local communities, public agencies, the private sector and volunteers to work with cooperative extension."

YEPCC is one of 69 similar youth-education projects nationwide and one of 30 that are funded specifically to promote collaboration among local, county, state and national youth-serving organizations and cooperative extension. During the 1992-93 year, YEPCC will offer programs in Kennett Square as well as the Chester area.

For more information about 4-H programs in your area, contact your local Penn State Cooperative Extension office.



## Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

Spring is almost here and I'm not sure that I am ready. My braided rug is finished but not all of the past summer's snapshots have been put in a book.

There will be so many things to transplant from my previous garden on the farm to our new one. My husband says that he will help with the vegetable garden this summer. He has planted some small trees on the crown of the hill behind our house. They include several oak, maple, spruce, dogwood, and pine. A friend gave us persimmon trees but they had very few roots and might not grow.

Last Sunday my husband persuaded me to go along to Cowans Gap State Park. He has been reading and feels it would be a good place to fish for trout. But, I think that it was a long truck ride to get there. We saw well-kept houses and some whose yards were littered with junk. It would seem almost impossible to clean and put them in order. We were surprised to see the lake almost covered

with ice. We did not get to do any fishing but the weather was nice and many folks were walking in the park.

Our children in Georgia tell us that their tulips and daffodils have been blooming for weeks. Their peas are several inches high as they were planted long ago.

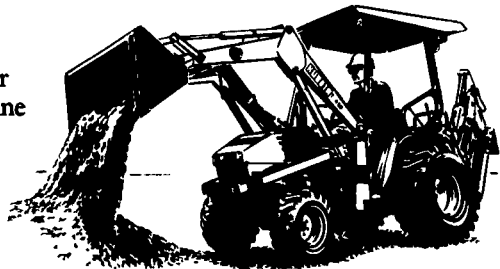
The 90 bulbs that I planted in November are coming up but I don't know what to expect in the way of blooms. So for the present, I'll just enjoy my house plants. The impatiens have pink flowers, the begonias red ones and the blue flowers on a plant called "blue daze" are quite pretty plus the orange blossoms on the kalanchoes.

*"The best fertilizer for a piece of land is the footprints of its owner."*

Lyndon B. Johnson, made during an inspection of his Texas ranch, 1963

# TIGHT MOVES

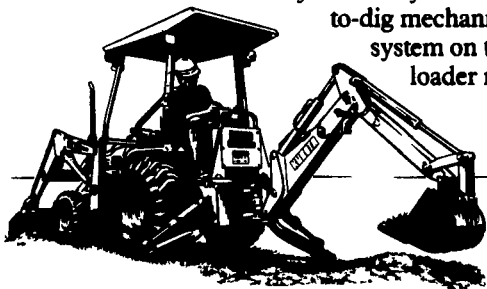
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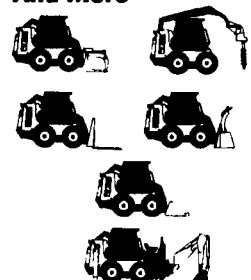


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