

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

People talk about recycling things and taking care of the environment. I feel as though that has been part of my life always. My parents saved many things that I thought should have been thrown away.

But, now I, too, save cord string and have a small ball in a kitchen drawer. In the same drawer is a bag of all-sized rubber bands. My stove drawer holds brown paper

bags which I reuse as necessary. The top shelf of a cupboard has boxes and paper that can be reused to wrap gifts.

The other day when I was peeling the tough asparagus stems, I asked my husband how many other women, he thought, did the same thing rather than throw the tough parts away. My mother peeled them because we did not have much asparagus and so we

used every bit. Now I do the same thing.

This reminds me of the story of the daughter who asked her mother why she had to always cut a ham in half before she baked it. The mother said, "Well, I'll ask Grandma as she always did this too." When Grandma was asked her reply was, "I cut the ham in half because I did not have a big enough pan for the whole ham."

Our family has always had shoes repaired that needed new heels. Why buy another pair? Stockings with runs can be worn under slacks and no one will notice. Plastic bags can be laundered and we need not buy new ones.

I wouldn't think of throwing away chicken necks or backs as that is the part of the bird that ends up on my plate. Why I even keep some clothes that no longer fit just because they bring back pleasant memories.

When we were first married, it

was a necessity to live conservatively and somehow over the years I've learned to live without and still be happy.

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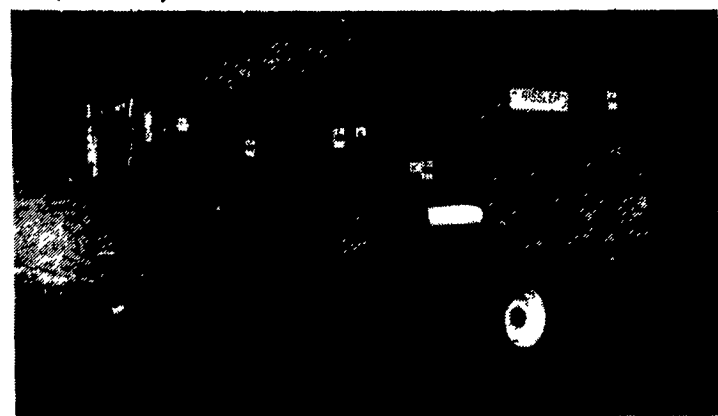
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