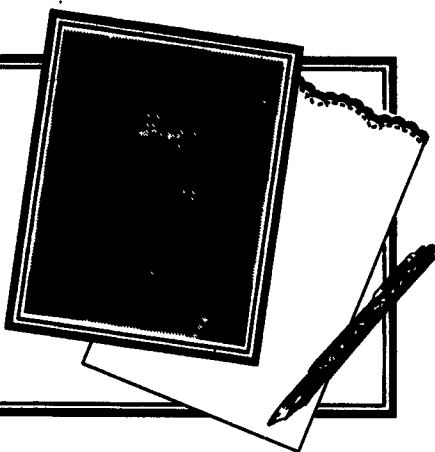


Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



We got to see our youngest grandson, Bryan, sooner than I expected. Last week I mentioned a small family gathering to celebrate my birthday. It turned out to

be a large group as all of my sisters attended. One came with her husband from Michigan. And, as I mentioned earlier, there too were our youngest daughter and her

family from Texas.

It was well planned and a nice room was reserved at a local restaurant. There were flowers everywhere. I had just filled three white plastic planters with impatiens. Now, I have two large pink hanging geraniums to add to the front porch decorations. The floral arrangement and big cake were beautiful too as were the colorful balloons. They really surprised me!

Two of our children from far away both came to stay overnight. Neither knew the other was coming. Often we give our bedroom to them as it is the largest. Children don't seem to mind using sleeping bags on the floor.

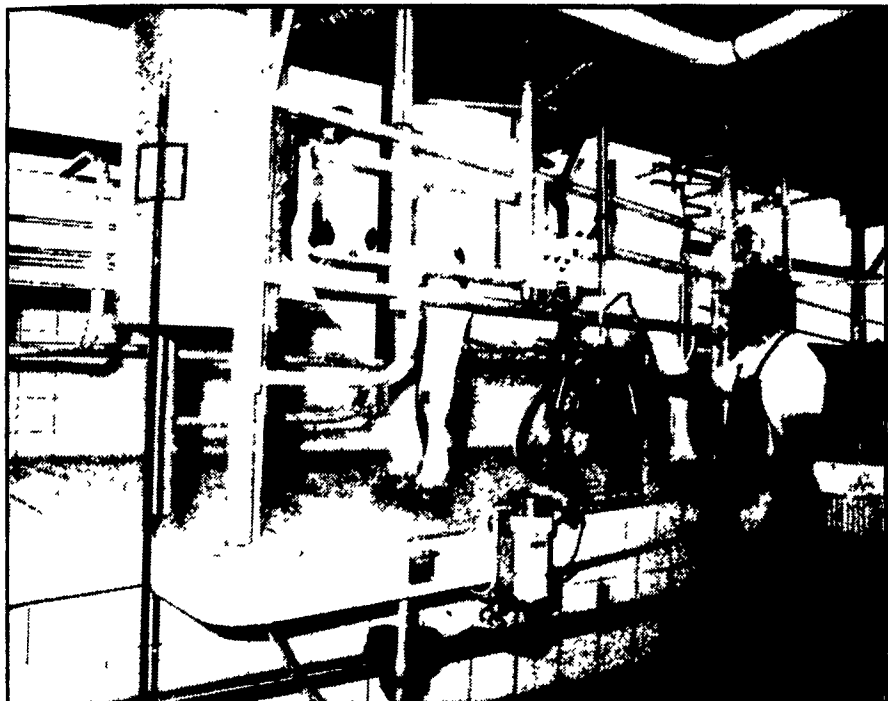
This year again I planted sever-

al unusual kinds of seeds. Some are from Landis Valley Heirloom Seed Catalog. I planted an herb called Burnet which is a bushy perennial with a cucumber taste and fragrance and it has pinkish-scarlet blossoms. Then too I've always liked lovage as it has a celery-like taste. I've never tried growing caraway before and so I put some in our garden as it is believed to help aerate heavy soils.

Of course, I put in flower seed too — coreopsis, strawflower, honesty and shasta daisies. This year I'm quite pleased with my many colored carnations. My daughter sent me money for Christmas and asked me to use it for plants. That was easy to do as I ordered astilbe and lily bulbs. Now I'll have to wait and see if they bloom and look as beautiful as their picture in the catalog.



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