

**Ida's  
Notebook**

by  
**Ida Risser**



On hot afternoons it is a temptation to stay indoors with two fans moving the air. I know that if I go outside I will find lots of work to do. Believe it or not, there are still lots of small strawberries to pick. Even though, I have decided not to make jam this year because some is left from last year.

The sugar peas are over until their second blooming. Then, I'll cook them with small potatoes that I carefully dig with my fingers without disturbing the roots. This year I've planted a long row of red beets and they all grew. My New Zealand spinach gives some all summer long.

Just now the evening air is perfumed with my carnations. There are pink, white and red ones. They had to be staked as they grew so very tall. Even Allen's roses do not have as much fragrance.

The grandchildren have been coming here for a few hours every day while their mother milks 60 cows. Philip has flown to Chicago to attend the American Society of Agricultural Engineers meeting. We hope that he enjoys some time away from the farm and its pressures.

The four year old likes me to tell him stories. So, we sit on the

porch on rocking chairs—I've just painted the one dark green. The other is called twig furniture and my parents used it long ago.

But, the 18 month old is something else. He is constantly on the move and he can climb and reach everything. The other day I rushed to save the goldfish bowl from being spilled. And, we live near the road so that is something else to be careful about.

We've had to learn, all over again, how to eat with children. Cut the food, pick up the spills and clean up afterwards. They do keep us busy.

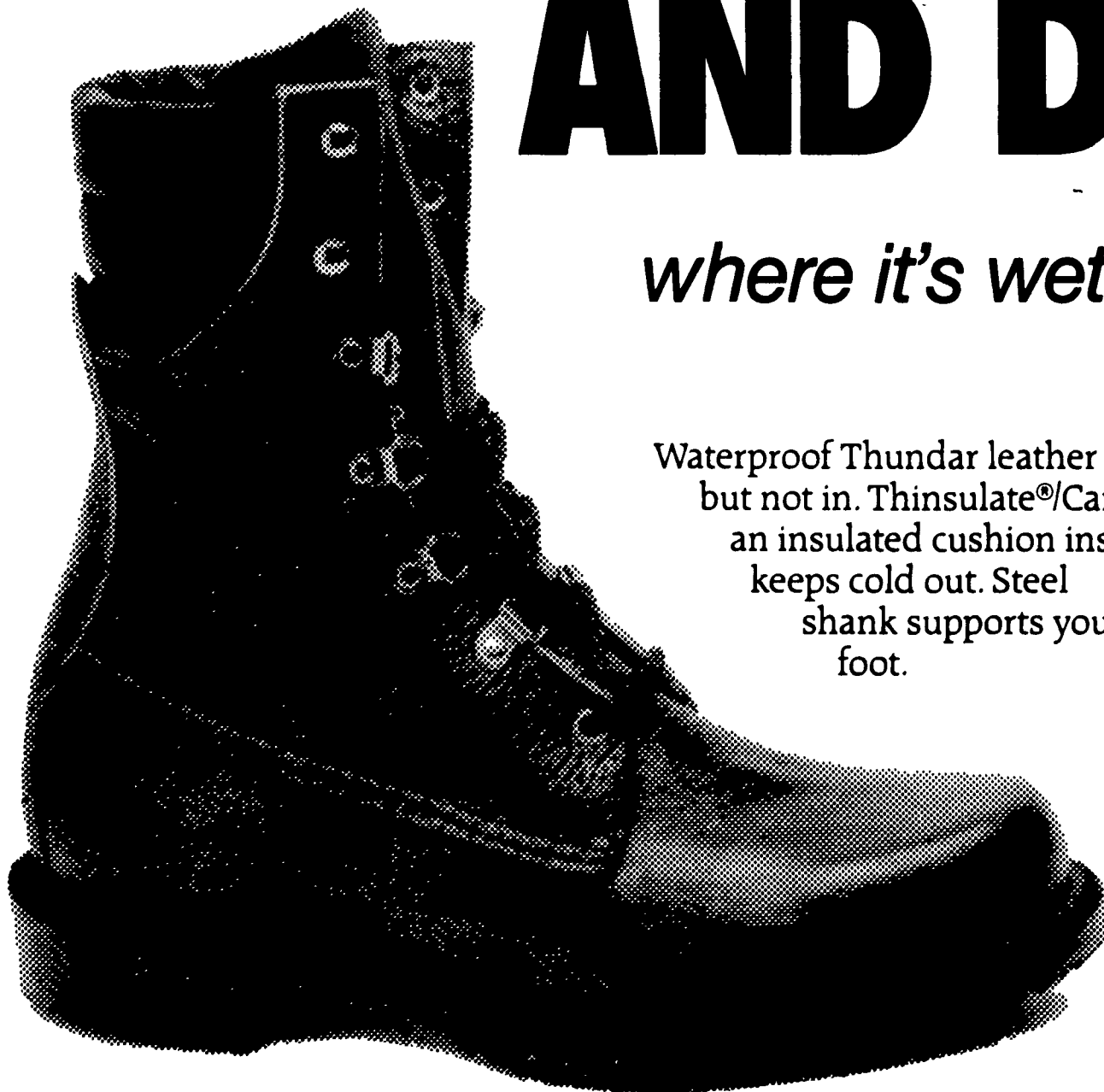


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