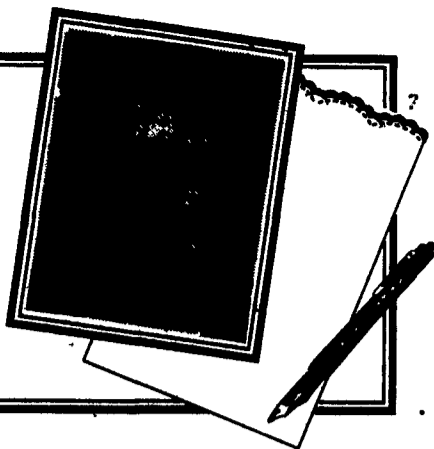


**Ida's  
Notebook**  
by  
**Ida Risser**



Some people find it easy to throw things away. My neighbors have big trash bags each week sitting in front of their homes. Sometimes even broken furniture or a rug is being disposed of there.

My family always saved everything — "You never know when you might need it," they said. Even I find it difficult to throw away old calendars with beautiful pictures. And of course, there is a ball of string in a drawer that keeps getting bigger as I seldom use any of it. My father saved the license plates from this 1923

Overland car and he repaired my little express wagon for me. It is rather fragile but I can still use it to pull the grandchildren.

Letters have always been saved and the ones that Nancy wrote to me when she was in college are now her diary of those years. I remember seeing letters written in a pink-lavender ink by my Grandfather to my Grandmother Landis in 1872. And, I wonder if the ink was made from pokewood berries. Cards and letters written in the late 1800s tell of another time when their work was different and yet

the same. They picked stones out of the fields and canned cherries and peaches even as we do. They were concerned about each others health the same as we are now.

Some of the memorabilia that I have given away recently included a 1918 funeral notice with the envelope edged in black. One was a Latin book from Shippen School in Lancaster. Another item that was appreciated was an 1899 picture of a child in a yard taken by a professional photographer. The background was a group of very large houseplants.

Just now tin match holders, coffee grinders, tiny crocks and glass telephone insulators are collectible items. If you keep items long enough they will be considered to be antiques. Sometimes a particular piece of furniture will even bring thousands of dollars. The problem is to know which items to save and which ones to dispose of when they're no longer useful.

**Women In Agriculture  
To Gather For  
Spring Conference**

LIVERPOOL, N.Y. — A day of interactive workshops and practical educational seminars await Pennsylvania and Maryland women who are active in dairying at the 1997 Women in Agriculture spring conference, March 18, in Chambersburg. Sponsored by Protiva, a unit of Monsanto, the conference at the Holiday Inn features a keynote speaker, in addition to a stellar lineup of farm-management workshops. Each workshop is geared toward enhancing the role of women dairy partners, including sessions regarding tips on time management, animal care, and farm finance.

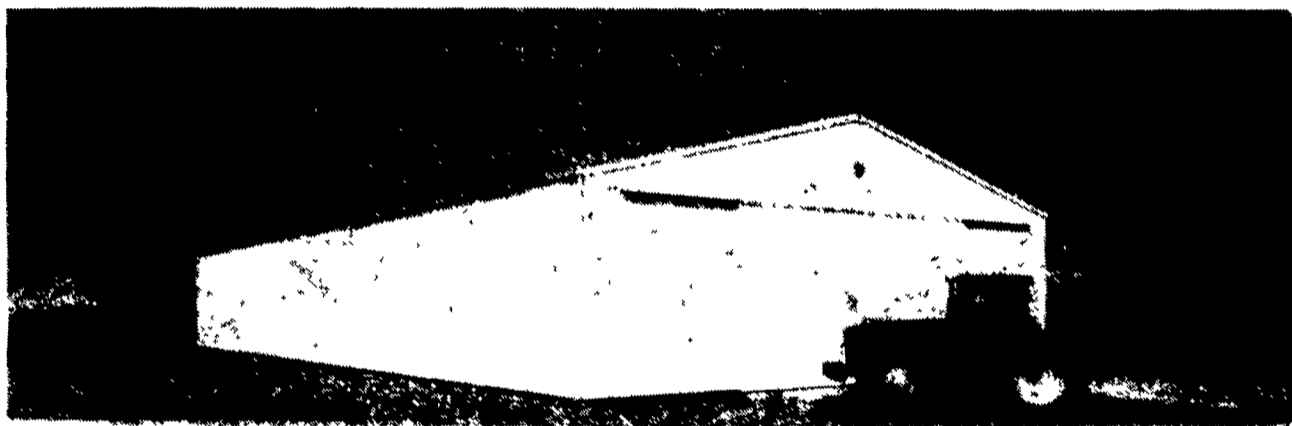
"Women, both currently and historically, are key influencers in farm management issues and

business-related financial decision making," says Dorothea D. Fitzsimmons, D.V.M., Northeast Technical Services, Protiva. "This conference is an excellent opportunity for women to meet and interact in an idea exchange with other dairy farmers in the region."

The keynote speaker, Patsy Perkins, owner of Idealink, is an experienced and well-known presenter known for her lively, thought-provoking workshops. Her presentation, "Get Jazzed: The Four C's of Harmony — Communication, Confidence, Consideration and Collaboration" is aimed at relaying practical techniques and information to help women in the dairy industry be stronger today and in the future.

To register for the conference, submit the registration fee of \$15 (checks payable to Monsanto Company) to Jacky Conroy at the Northeast Regional office, Protiva, a Unit of Monsanto, 7481 Henry Clay Boulevard, Liverpool, N.Y. 13088, or for more information contact Conroy at (800) 455-5965.

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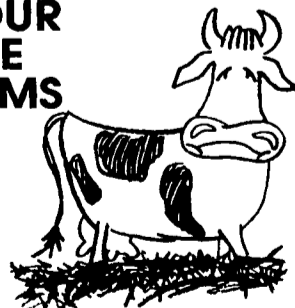
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