

"Love your mother."
We encourage our Sunday School class youngsters to think about and practice that. (And to love their fathers, too.) You might expect to find that message on a selection from your local card store. An advertisement from the floral industry. Maybe even a restaurant chain hoping you might treat her to lunch. Their lunch, of course.

But on a bumper sticker? "Gee," I thought, "that seems a little different for a bumper sticker."

Then, the rest of the message carried on the bumper of the sport utility vehicle became visible — and made complete sense. For at the far side of the long promotional sticker was a picture of the earth.

Love your Mother . . . Earth. What a lovely and positive thought, was my first reaction. But the longer I thought about it, the funnier it got.

Because, here we had a good-sized, probably somewhat gas-guzzling, air-polluting vehicular emissions source promoting good stewardship over Mother Earth.

When one of the critical issues causing Mother Earth to choke up happens to be vehicular emissions and the side effects that go with them.

Probably lots of the admonitions many of us grew up with from our own mothers were — directly or indirectly-related to the kind of good stewardship and good citizenship that is necessary to be good to our Mother . . . Earth.

Don't litter. Along the roads, in the back yards, in the fields, in the trunks. In your room. I frequently return from walks along the road with discarded drink and fast food containers tossed out by passing drivers. To say nothing of those piles of personal trash pitched into ours and other convenient woodlots along the highways.

Or, how about this mother admonition: if you're cold, put on a sweater. (My brothers always claimed a sweater was something you wore when your mom was cold.) But, by not overheating our buildings, and instead raising our comfort level via another layer,

we can reduce maybe by at least a smidgeon the burning of fossil fuels to keep ourselves overheated.

Shut the refrigerator door . . . Turn off the TV if you're not watching it . . . Turn off the air conditioner and open the window. Ever hear Mom say any of these? Help cut the electric bill, for goodness sake, much of which is also generated by those diminishing fossil fuels.

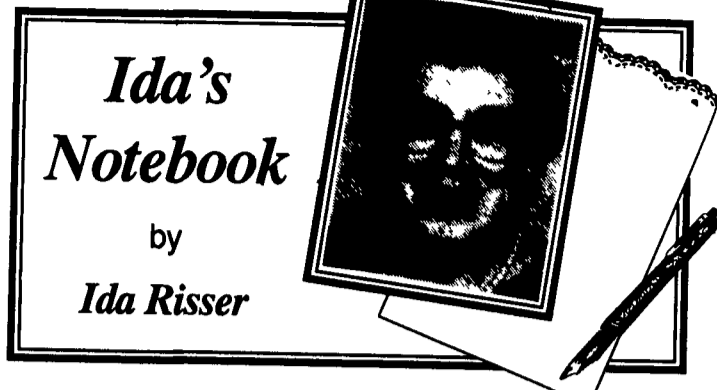
Clean off your plate. Remember Mom telling you that? We waste so much food. And continue to tear down and burn off virgin timbers and jungles around the world to clear land to grow more to keep the price cheap so we can continue to waste it. Trees which, by the way, help Mother Earth purify the air for us to breathe.

Like our own mothers, Mother Earth is amazingly tolerant and generously forgiving about our naughty behavior. Given the slightest opportunity, she will seed and sprout and re-green even the ugliest earth-batterings which we administer. Mother's persistence is evident everywhere you see weeds and grass sprouting up through the slightest crack in concrete or asphalt.

And then there's that favorite "momism" about changing your underwear every day, just in case you'd be in an accident and have to be taken to the hospital. Did anyone's mom ever really say that?

Mom's messages generally all come back to one starting point — personal responsibility. As we again celebrate Mother's Day, we can thank our moms for at least at-

tempting to instill us with that. And love them — Mother and Mother Earth — for their abundant forgiveness when we forget. Love 'ya, Mother.



We can't stop time, and as we get older we think that it goes faster. Children think that time goes slowly, as they wait for a birthday or a special holiday.

And, what marks time for us? Clocks, watches, and other time pieces are important in our lives. My parents had a wall clock that sat on a shelf and inside were hidden the numbers to their large safe. It was moved from house to house and now my sister has it.

Our son made a Grandfather's clock in high school, and I enjoyed having it chime away in our living room. However, when he got married, he took it to Georgia and now this spot was empty. So, we bought another Grandfather's clock. This is an older one, but it has no chimes.

When I was in Switzerland, I

bought a small cuckoo clock for our youngest son. I'm not sure that it runs just now but it is an oddity. One watch that I prize is the Hamilton wristwatch that my parents gave me as a graduation gift. It is solid gold and has my initials on it.

When I was a teen-ager, I had a few chickens and sold their eggs for 12 cents a dozen. After enough pennies were saved, I bought myself a used Swiss wristwatch. Then it stopped running. I was very upset. Probably I had not wound it properly. But, I still remember that day.

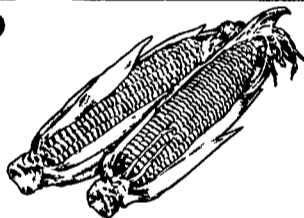
Somewhere there is a quote that says, in regard to a river, "Men may come and men may go, but I go on forever." How true that statement is.



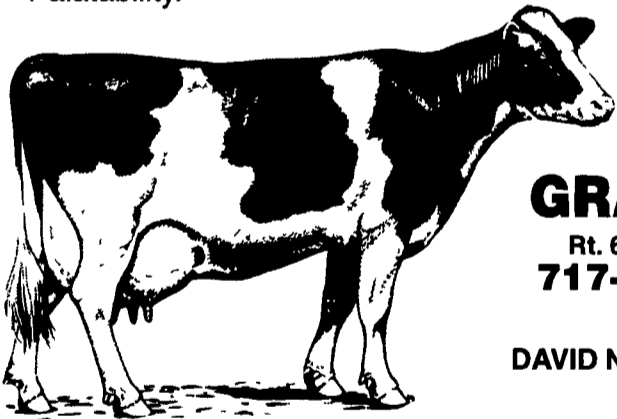
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PLEASE JOIN US...



For the next Community Stakeholders Meeting.

We'll have dinner and participate in activities which will help us create a map of our assets and develop an inventory of resources to help us realize our vision for a healthier community.

Monday, May 18 5:00 p.m.

Banquet Facility at Weaver's Adamstown

Dinner and the meeting are free.
Call 738-6569 for reservations.