

**Ida's
Notebook**
by
Ida Risser

My husband is out and about again. He dug 60 holes to replace some asparagus plants. Then he dug 10 big holes for blueberry bushes. He also sprayed all of our fruit trees.

I have planted the garden and carried the rocking chairs from the basement to the front porch. And, I've cleaned the large play area in the basement in anticipation of several families coming to visit at the same time.

There is something waiting for the grandchildren. Our spare bed is covered with stuffed toys and dolls. Their former owners have outgrown them and so the younger grandchildren will have an opportunity to enjoy them. In addition to outgrowing them, the family is planning to move from Virginia to Delaware. Our chil-

dren do not seem to dread moving as much as I would

We had a different experience the other Saturday night. We were invited to go bowling. This is something that we had not done for many years. The place we went to was very different from the smoke-filled one when I bowled many years ago. At that time, I was the only woman in the place.

This time we had six small children along with us. They ranged in age from three to nine years old. Some of them carried the heavy ball to the line and dropped it. Others lay it down carefully and then gave it a push. One little fellow seemed to have a knack for bowling and got a higher score than we adults. Times surely do change!



Progressive Clovers Club
The monthly meeting of Progressive Clovers 4-H Club was held on March 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Baust Parrish House.

After the club was called to order by President Brett Haines, club members and guests were recognized. One guest attended the meeting, which was Elizabeth Davis.

Matt Carman, Amy Ridinger, Jason Ridinger, and Kevin Ridinger were all recognized for attending the county demonstration day. The club also announced that 4-H Achievement Night will be held on March 18.

Upcoming dates the club announced included April 14: Wills Fair sign-up deadline, May 20: Wills Fair, May 21: Market sheep, swine, and goat

tagging. The next meeting for the club will be held on Monday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Baust Parrish House in Tyrone, Maryland.

If you would like more information, call Sylvia Miller at 410-751-5299 in Taneytown or the Carroll County 4-H office at 410-386-2760.

Deckertown Community Club
The Deckertown Community Club recently held its April meeting.

During the meeting, the club discussed SPCA animal shelter and learned about parliamentary procedure.

The club also decided to have a bike hike at the Lackwanna State Park. The club will bike or hike in the morning and have a picnic in the park afterwards. The club members also dis-

cussed their flower planting project at Baily Apartments.

After the April meeting adjourned, club members presented their demonstrations. Anna Chichura did a demonstration on pysanky Easter eggs. Brandon Loch did a presentation on how to separate hydrogen and oxygen molecules in water using electricity. Timothy Potter explained how to take and pack a backpack for a two-day hiking and camping trip. Nancy Acker and Kayla Fuller did a demonstration on making a banana split. Afterwards, club members enjoyed tasting the banana splits.

The meeting concluded with an Easter egg hunt.

Food Safety Training

Penn State Cooperative Extension is offering a two-hour food safety and sanitation training for 4-H food handlers on June 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Allied Services Community Room, off of Rte. 307 in Scranton. The program includes discussion on safe food preparation, cooking temperatures, handwashing techniques, and cross contamination.

Approximately 76 million people suffer from foodborne illnesses each year. Of those, 325,000 require hospitalization, and 5,000 die. These unfortunate incidents were the result of poor food handling.

Many of us are involved in handling food at various 4-H functions. No matter what kind of food we are working with, we all need to know and practice safe food handling techniques to prevent foodborne illness.

Registration, coffee, and networking begins at 9:30 a.m. The program runs from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

USDA Proposes Fee Increase For Plant Protection

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The USDA proposes to increase the Plant Variety Protection Office's fees for plant variety protection certificates.

Kathleen Merrigan, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said, "The fee increase will affect all applicants for Plant Variety Protection Certificates. The fee increase is necessary to reduce

operating losses and maintain the fiscal stability of this important program."

Major factors contributing to the need for the fee changes include increased employee salaries and supply costs. Current fees have been in effect since 1995.

The proposal will raise the application fee from \$300 to \$320, the search fee from \$2,150

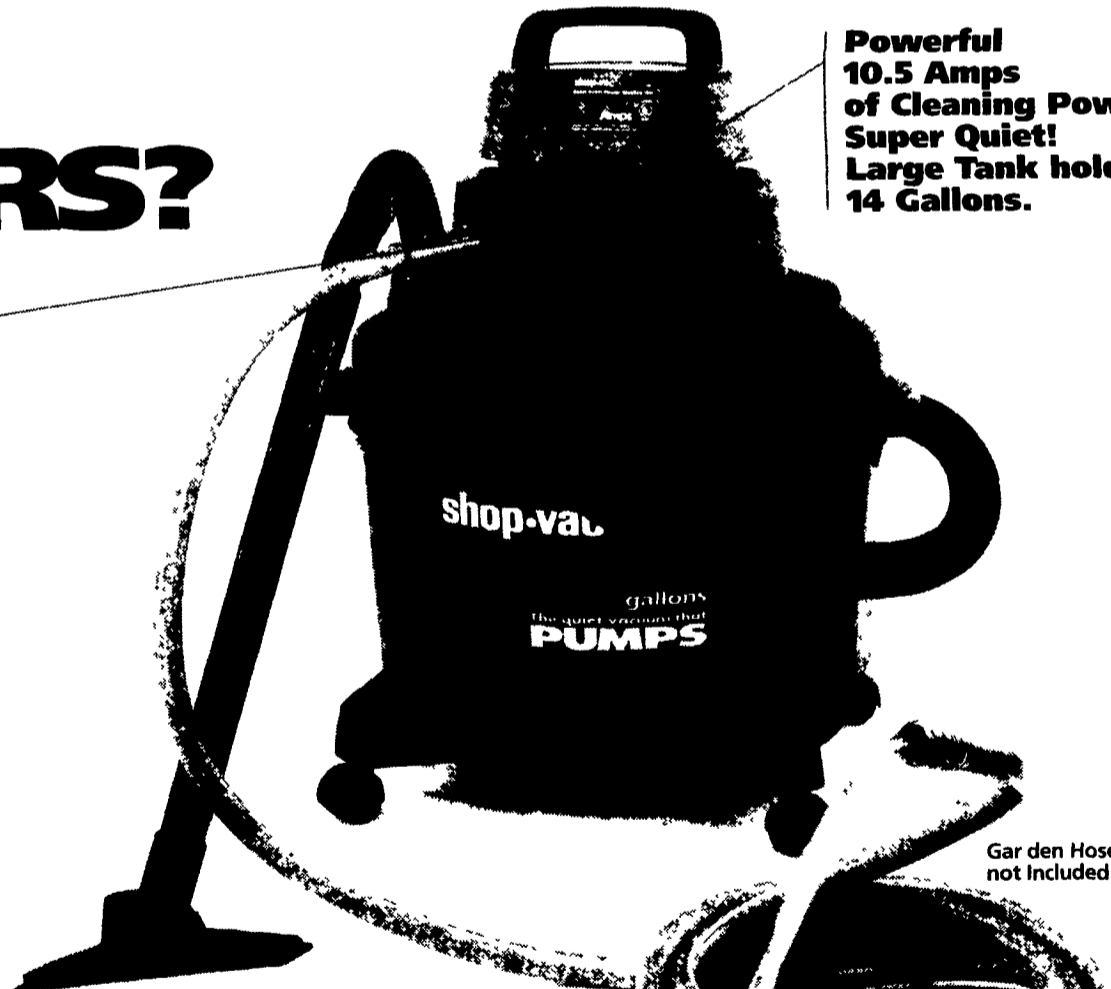
to \$2,385, and the issuance fee from \$300 to \$320. It will also increase the fees for reviving an abandoned application, or correction or re-issuance of a certificate, from \$300 to \$320. The charge for granting an extension for responding to a request will increase from \$50 to \$55. The hourly charge for any other service not specified will increase from \$60 to \$66.

The fee increase proposal was scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on March 15. Comments should be received no later than April 14, and should be sent to Ann Marie Thro, Commissioner, Plant Variety Protection Office, Rm. 500 N.A.L. Building, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, MD 20705.

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