

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



With Christmas just around the corner, whatever we didn't accomplish by the 23rd just might not get done. It is easy for me to get the cards mailed on time. And, I enjoy making 15 or 20 kinds of cookies, but decorating is a chore. It was easier when the children were living at home

and could help to decorate the tree. We have plenty of ornaments as at one time, we put up two trees.

My mother always hung a small, faded red paper wreath on the kitchen door. And, my father cut a small, prickly cedar tree from our meadow for us to deco-

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rate with colored paper chains.

A main part of our Christmas celebration, when I was young, was the children's program at church. After the program, we went down the back stairs and there was a man offering each of us a small box of chocolates and a big orange. That was something very special to look forward to. Even the trip to church in our 1923 Overland car, at nighttime and often in

heavy fog, was a memorable occasion.

We wore long, brown ribbed stockings held up by garters. These we hung at the wainscoting and hoped for another orange and some hard candy. In our family of nine, we exchanged names and one year my father had my name. He bought me a 10 cent handkerchief. It was not

the gift, but rather the thought of him actually shopping for me that I remember.

This year we expect to have a quiet Christmas. But, the Saturday afterwards will be very busy as we have planned our annual open house and expect a lot of relatives to come.

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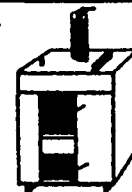
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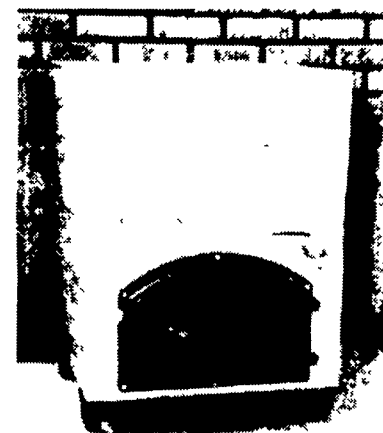
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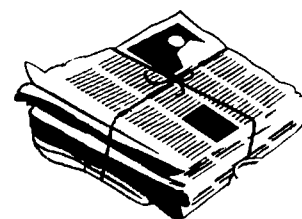
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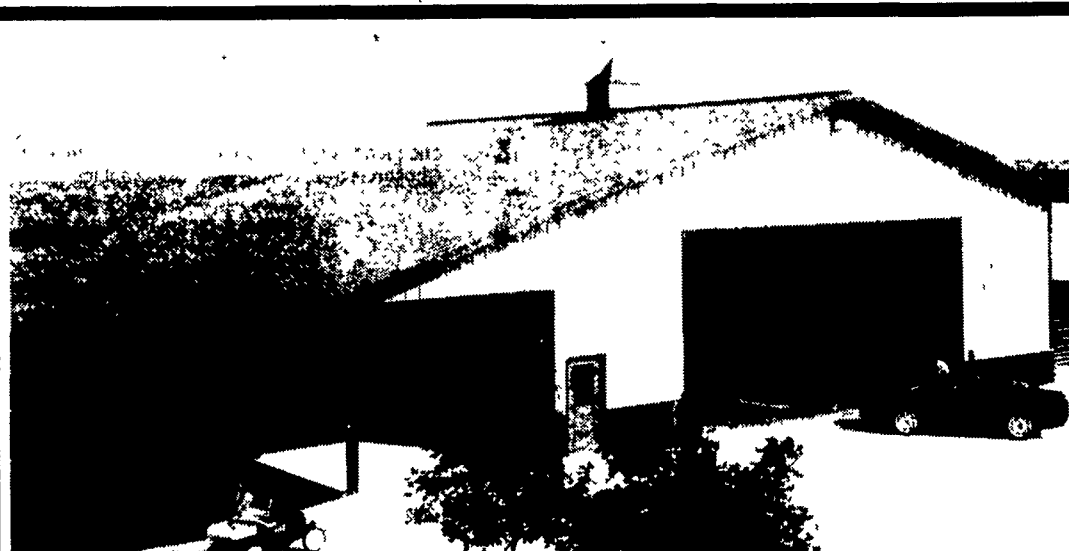
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