

**Ida's
Notebook**
by
Ida Risser



Today I decided to write about life on our farm almost 40 years ago when our six children were all living at home. They ranged in ages from two years to 17 years old. This is what I read in my diary.

It was a very busy time in December 1965. Every day I drove four children to kindergarten and had to pick them up again at noontime. At that time we did not have a freezer but rather kept our vegetables and meat at a local frozen food locker. Our 12-year-old boy liked to bake bread. I was surprised to read that I had made six fruitcakes be-

fore Christmas.

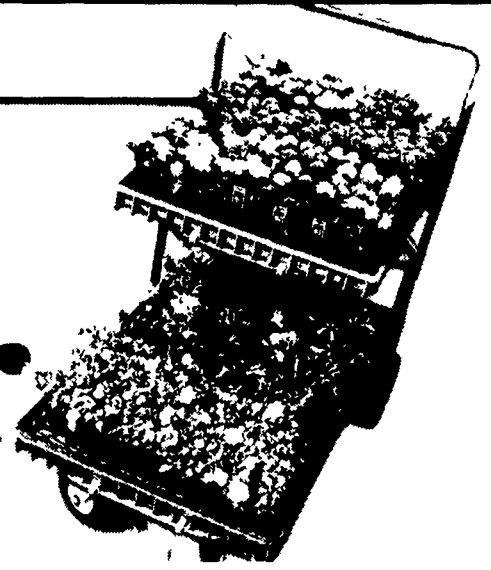
We seemed to do more visiting then than we do now. Our children often had friends come to share meals with us. Not too much work got done when other boys came and so some corn lay unharvested in the field.

At that time we replastered a ceiling in our house and then painted it. Repair men had to come and fix the furnace and washing machine. We helped to butcher two big pigs that we bought from a neighbor. We bought snow tires and my husband and an older boy went deer hunting.

It was this month that our oldest daughter was notified that she had a full scholarship to Alfred University in New York state. She was elated and so were we as she had always had her heart set on being a nurse. At this time she could drive a car and help with taking our children to 4-H meetings. She also tutored several boys and girls in other school districts.

That year I canned and froze some 400 quarts of vegetables and fruits from my garden. We didn't have much money, but we had lots of good food to put on the table.

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