

Ida Risser

This past week my little girl decided to make butter in the same manner as my Grandmother Landis did many years ago while sitting on the cellar steps.

We had the sweet cream and the empty fruit jar but had to guess what temperature it was. The candy and roast thermometers don't go as low at the 60's. Finally one of the children remembered they had broken my butter thermometer many years ago when they checked the water in the Conestoga before going swimming. Such children!

We must have guessed right because in a short ten minutes she had butter to put in the refrigerator to harden. It tasted especially good on the home-baked bread which Judy had just made

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The raccoons are eating our sweet corn. I've been told that an electric fence a few inches from the ground would keep them away. But, it seems, that no one has time to put one up in the field.

So, we are tying our dogs in the patch at night. It seems as though we have to work extra hard for our food this year. Whether or not this practice will help, we shall have to wait and see.

When we burned some of the debris from cleaning our basement after the flood, red embers were still glowing at night. The three children toasted marshmallows over them under an orange moon.

Among the things that remind me that Fall is on the way are an orange or Harvest moon. Also, little yellow butterflies flitting over a clover field or a puddle by the side of the road. I was always told "When the wind blows over the oats stubbles it goes toward Fall."

In the Kitchen

APPETIZER KEBABS

18 dill pickle slices

(1/4-inch thick)

18 carrot curls

18 radishes

1/4 cup Italian-style low-calorie salad dressing

Arrange a pickle slice, carrot curl and radish on each of 18 cocktail picks. Pour salad dressing over kebabs and chill at least one hour. Serve as appetizer or salad accompaniment. Makes six servings or 18 kebabs.

Rural America Shows New Signs of Growth

The move from farm to city may be coming to a halt. A new era of economic and social growth for rural America may already be launched.

These are two conclusions to be drawn from various reports on the progress of rural America, from the arid stretches of the Southwest to the green fields of the Southeast. They also are indications that the much-talked about goals of rural development are beginning to emerge as realized accomplishments for an increasing number of communities.

Some signs of the recharged energies within rural areas are:

—More jobs: During the 1960's nonfarm jobs increased by 39 percent in the countryside, a slightly better rate than the 34 percent increase in metropolitan areas. This growth rate has been high in completely rural counties as well as in those with cities of up to 50,000 population.

—Farm-exodus ending: The farm population has dropped to fewer than 9½ million persons. With so few people remaining on the Nation's farms, little further decline in the population is possible. As the farm-to-city migration dwindles to a negligible level, continued gains in nonagricultural jobs will have a more visible impact on the overall economy and population of rural areas.

—Greater Federal commitment to rural areas: The government is stepping up its investment in rural America manifold. For example, funds earmarked for housing in rural areas amount to \$2.2 billion this year, four times the 1969 level;

sewer and water programs are allocated \$342 million this year, nearly twice the 1969 level. Total funds devoted to rural development efforts by the Department of Agriculture will amount to \$3.5 billion this year—four times the level in 1961 and twice as much as in 1969.

More important than the statistics or the governmental expenditures, however, is the determined individual in community after rural community who resolves to solve the problem on his own, who takes action to set his own neighborhood on the road to progress.

In Tulia, Texas, for example,

local leaders set out to combat decaying businesses, blighted housing. As a result of their efforts, the community has 386 new low-cost homes and jobs and incomes are up because of the construction work. In North Carolina, citizens mounted a driver education campaign as a small but vital part of their Statewide effort to connect more rural workers with more better paying jobs.

Rural development is an idea whose time has come—mostly because increasing numbers of local groups of local groups are taking it upon themselves to make sure that it does.

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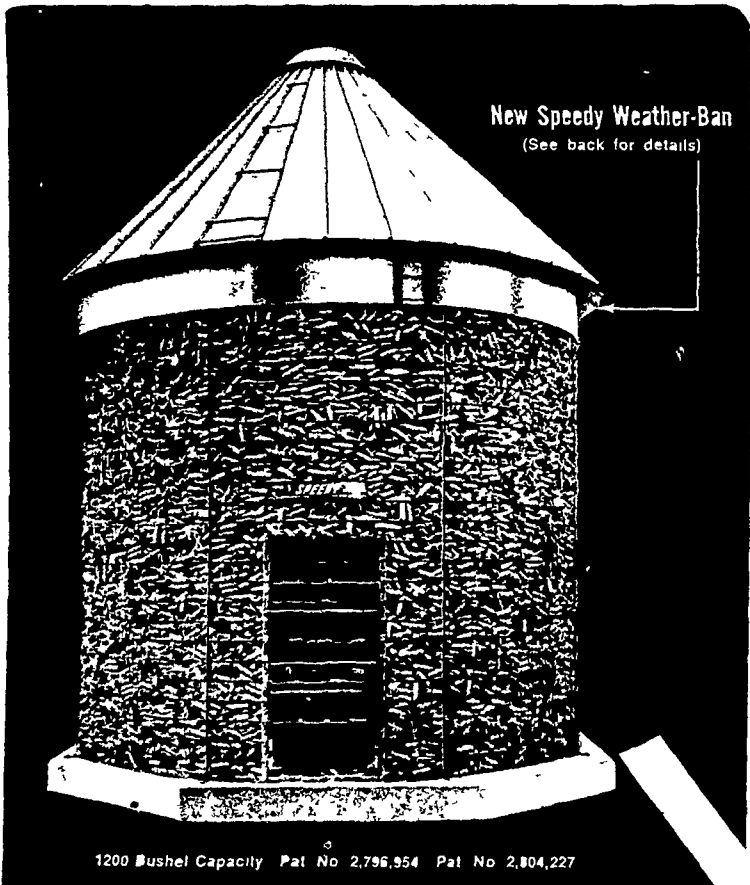
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