

LIFE on the farm

By DIETER KRIEG



Taking a five-gallon gas can and having it go through an eight inch pipe might seem like an impossible task, but it isn't. Neither does it require magic. I know, because our hired man did it once. Before going through the pipe, the can measured about 11 inches in diameter and it was filled with gas. Coming out at the other end it was a mass of tin ribbons and completely empty. Quite a trick.

Requesting to be fired, and visibly upset with the "trick," our hired man sincerely believed he had done something very terrible.

I was in the barn getting ready for the afternoon milking when he came dashing through the door, his head shaking back and forth in disbelief over what had happened. His first words came out all at once as a plea for punishment, an apology, and a description of what had occurred.

We both grabbed forks and headed up the silo. Marvin, our hired man, was just about sick - and he was punishing himself. About all that was

left to do, besides throw silage out of the silo and pick up pieces of metal, was for me to laugh and joke about it. Too bad regular gas was in the can, some high test might have done the cows some good!

Seriously, what had happened wasn't really funny and some sad consequences could have resulted from it, but this was not time to be pre-occupied with those kind of thoughts.

Marvin went to work feverishly, still very much stunned by it all, and he never stopped apologizing and explaining. As he recalled the event, he had taken a five-gallon gasoline can with him while on his way out to the field to pick up the last load of silage. On his way back, he stopped to fill it and then placed it on the discharge belt to take down to the tractor hitched to the blower. He and the rest of us had done it many times before. Only this time it was forgotten about when unloading began.

The first thing coming out of the

wagon was the filled can. It was instantly torn to shreds by the howling blower. Small wonder the tips of the blades were travelling at a speed of about 125 feet per second, or 85 miles per hour.

Pieces of metal and five gallons of gasoline were blasted up the pipe and onto the chopped corn. Our job now was to remove all of the debris and then return to our more regular tasks, as usual. Such is life on the farm.

John Knebel takes over

[Continued from Page 1]

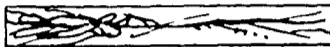
policies and that farmers would continue to make their own decisions."

Knebel also noted that President Ford has admitted that the grain embargo of last year was a mistake and that a pledge has been made not to impose another one. He attacked Carter for

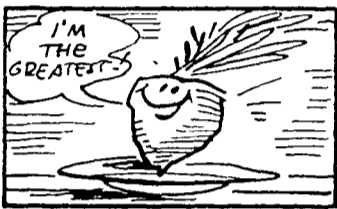
proposing a trade policy with the Soviet Union which in effect would do business at whatever times the Soviets are ready. "This," said Knebel, "would cause a stop-

and-go trade situation such as you have never seen before."

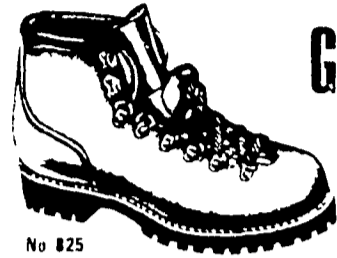
"This is no time to jimmy around with your farm policy," he concluded.



Rhubarb is the stalk or stem of plants and its leaves and roots contain oxalic acid which can be poisonous.



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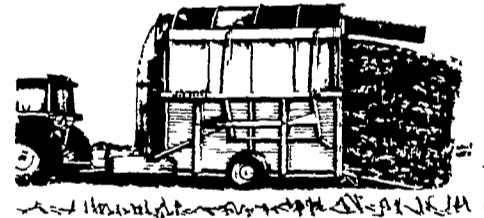
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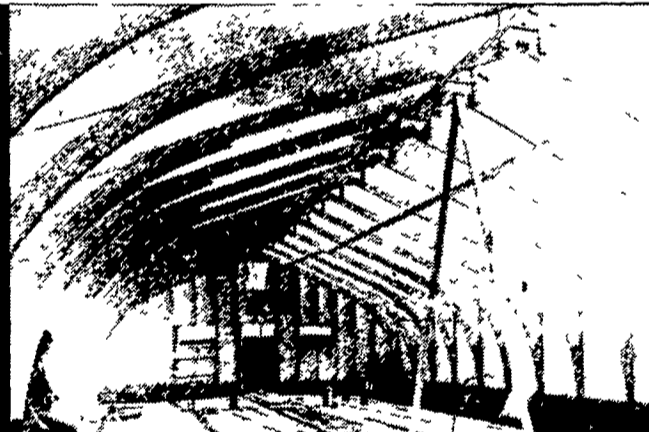
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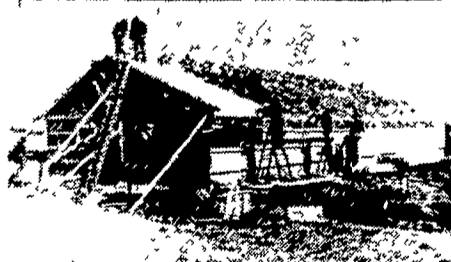
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