

My Thoughts and Welcome to Them

(With apologies to James Thurber)

City kids just don't know what they are missing

By JOANNE SPAHR

I never cease to be amazed by the cultural differences between city reared and farm reared individuals. When I first went to college I had to adjust to "dinner being called lunch and supper" being called dinner. Then too, the size and importance of the meal was switched because the office employed father looked forward to a good meal in the evenings when he got home from work whereas my father always needed a good meal at noon to tide him over during an afternoon of strenuous physical labor. I was also amazed by a family that didn't really know the secure feeling of being able to locate the father and mother any time during the day. But, after four years of living in the college environment, I thought I had come to the end of finding differences between myself and my city friends. But, I was wrong. Just the other day I was surprised again when I had one of my Philadelphia friends up to the farm for a "weekend vacation."

During the evening we were sitting in the living room holding a pleasant conversation when a thunderstorm rolled over us. Thunder was cracking, lightning was flashing, and I naturally was alarmed. She, of course, was also. But, this was nothing out of the ordinary because I think everyone is affected by the strong forces of nature. But, what was really interesting is that the base for her fear was totally different from mine. Whereas my first thought and fear is for the barn being struck and the responsibility of having to get the animals out, if possible, she had no concept of this kind of fear. Instead, she simply was afraid of the sound and flashing. Another thing that was dif-

ferent was that I also feared being struck were I to venture outside and that thought never even crossed her mind. In fact, she asked me if I had ever heard of anything being struck by lightning because she hadn't. To a person who has grown up hearing about livestock loss due to storms, that question seemed naive. But, in Philadelphia, it is a rare occurrence to have someone or something struck by lightning. Then, too, she naturally didn't know what a lightning rod was.

From this, the conversation branched off to what it was like when I was a child and we had a thunderstorm. We used to all sit together at the kitchen table invariably in the dark, because our lights always went out. And, we would always have candles handy so we could spend a nice candlelight evening, while we waited for the two or three inevitable things to happen. First, the lightning always seemed to seek out the TV and strike it, blowing out the tube for three or so weeks until we got it fixed. Or, the phone would suddenly come to life for one brief second after a bolt of lightning hit it and then knocked it dead. That was always one of the worst things to happen because we had no control over the amount of time it took for that to get fixed like we did for the T.V. Instead we were at the mercy of the phone company, and in those days rural people seemed to come last on the list of the phone company's priorities.

It almost used to be fun to have a storm because it called an impromptu family get-together. City kids just have no idea of all the fun they miss by not living on a farm--all the way down to something as non-farm-related as a storm.

Lancaster Co. Society 11

Lancaster County Farm Women Society 11 met on September 30 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Martha McComsey near Quarryville. The meeting was opened by vice-president Dorothy Huber. Roll call was answered by 16 members and three guests.

President Violet Eshleman was in charge of the business meeting. Secretary and treasurer reports were given and approved. The sunshine report was given. Nominating committee reported, and three new members were appointed to the book committee.

Final plans for the bus trip on October 14 were given by Marie Bucher.

Members were requested to bring program suggestions and hostess invitations for use of the book committee. The announcement was made concerning the county convention on November 6. It was decided to have a bazaar table at the Extension service Christmas party on November 8.

Bessie Ressel installed Mrs. John Hardy as a new member.

Donald Risk showed a picture presentation of his trip to Russia as the entertainment for the day.

A small auction was held. During the social hour, refreshments were served by the committee.

A change has been made

for October 28. The meeting will be held in the social room of the Quarryville Methodist Church, and Mrs. Robert Bucher will give a craft demonstration.

Lancaster Co. Society 3

The Lancaster County Society of Farm Women Group 3 took a field day this month instead of their regular meeting night.

The group motored to "Ott's Exotic Plants" and toured the greenhouses on

Route 29 at Schwenksville, Pa.

The next stop for the group was at "Mill Grove," the Audabon Wildlife Sanctuary in Audabon, Pa.

Edward Graham, curator of Mill Grove, spoke to the ladies before their tour.

During a picnic at Lower Perkiomen Park, Mrs. Mary Hill, vice-president, conducted a business meeting.

After lunch, the final stop was at the Iron Master's House in Center Point where Harry Haupt gave a tour and spoke to the ladies.

Mrs. Joseph Bartholomew announced the October meeting will be a trip to the Franklin Mint on October 26.

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Lancaster Co. Society 7

Lancaster County Farm Women Society 7 met recently at the home of Mrs. Charles Lichty.

Reports of committees were given. Ninety dollars was cleared at a food stand at the Schaeffer house sale. The sale of property, farm implements, and household items of Mr and Mrs Harold Eby, Kinzers Rt 1 will be held on October 16 at 9 a.m. The Society will have a food stand at the sale.

The annual banquet will be held at Historic Strasburg Restaurant on October 16 at 6:30 p.m. Husbands and guests are invited. Ralph Schneider of York will demonstrate "Creating things from gourds."

A group of women will go to Conestoga View Home on November 18 at 1:30 p.m. to play games with the patients.

Several women will write essays on How a Farm Women Ticks in '76.

The Christmas Bazaar will be held at the Farm and Home Center on November 8 at 9:30. Societies are to have a food and display table.



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