

On being a farm wife - and other hazards



By Joyce Bupp

He stood over six feet tall, with soft brown hair and sparkling brown eyes. Muscles rippled over his husky physique. Obviously we were destined to spend some time together and would become good friends.

His home was on Molokai, the smallest of the five best-known Hawaiian islands. The American Farm Bureau Federation Convention had

brought me here, making this unexpected meeting possible.

Finally we were introduced. His name was KoKo.

KoKo was a mule. Wakiki Beach in Honolulu is very enjoyable, but expensive, jammed with tourists and definitely not the "real" Hawaii. KoKo was more like it.

Fourteen of us, all pretty much novices on horseback, climbed into the saddles, and began winding our way, with island cowboy guides, through a lush green pasture, over high hills dotted with a herd of dairy heifers. Suddenly the trail made a sharp turn to the right, and we could view our destination.

It lay 1500 feet below, a green peninsula jutting out into deep blue Pacific. And we were headed down, the whole 1500 feet, on a steep switchback trail, carved out of sheer rocks, barely a yard wide at many spots.

Far below, we could hear the waves pounding on the black rock coastline. The trail was protected at some spots by large shrubs and earthen or rock sides. At other places, a mere six inch raised "curb" of ground marked the outer edge of the trail, with a drop of perhaps 50 feet, straight down the side of the ancient, volcanic-formed cliff.

The exhilarating, hold-your-breath ride took over an hour, with the mules never stumbling. KoKo wanted to nibble weeds and cactus - the one thing we were told would make a mule lose its stride. Our guides explained that a mule nibbles only to show the rider who is the boss. I was already convinced - no way was I going to tell that mule which way to go. He'd been there before.

On the peninsula below was a historic leper colony, a place of both stark tragedy and selfless heroism. The disease has long since been contained, but 117 cured patients still live there, isolated from the world, accessible only by small plane, the mules, and a supply barge which visits only twice a year.

Farm Women Societies

Lancaster Co. Society 3

Lancaster Co. Society 18

Dauphin Co. Society 1

Lancaster County Farm Women Society 3 met on Saturday, January 15, at the home of Mrs. Vivian Stauffer, Ephrata R1.

The business meeting was conducted by Mrs. Betty Edwards. During that session, reports of the state convention were given.

Mrs. Eileen Miller also reported on the visit of the group's adopted daughter at the Hamburg State School.

The program for the day, which was presented by Mrs. Mary Alice Gregory and her daughter, Debra, was entitled "Tie a Knot." They demonstrated how to tie scarf knots in the various ways to heighten the fashion of the dress or blouse a woman is wearing.

The next meeting of the group will be at the home of Mrs. Alice Trumbauer, Pleasant View Drive, Ephrata. The program will be "Safety in the Home" presented by Donald Stauffer from the Denver Fire Company.

The Farm Womens' Society No. 18 met last Saturday at the home of Mrs. Wayne Brubaker, with the highlight of the gathering being a talk by David Griffith on St. Joseph Hospital's emergency ambulance unit.

Also on the agenda were a delegates' report on the recent state convention, and a discussion of upcoming county projects. Members voted to again support the emergency rescue unit.

On Feb. 19 the group will entertain Society 6 at 1:30 p.m.

Plans have been made to entertain members' husbands on March 21 at the Hershey Community Theatre where "Oklahoma" will be staged at that time.

Berks Co. Society 4

The January meeting of the Berks County Society of Farm Women Group 4 was held in the home of Mrs. Edna Angstadt.

New 1977 programs were distributed. After the general business meeting, the Constitution and By-Laws of the organization were read and reviewed. Plans were made to attend the state convention in Harrisburg.

Lancaster Co. Society 21

Lancaster County Society 21 met at the home of Mrs. Willis Rineer, Quarryville R2, on Thursday, January 13 with Mrs. Robert Rohrer, president, conducting the meeting.

Donations will be given to the Solanco Fair Association and Meals on Wheels.

Mrs. Ruth Ann Jackson, Nottingham, presented a demonstration on cake decorating. Co-hostesses were Mrs. Charles Tindall, Jr., and Mrs. Howard Steinberg.

The group's next activity will be on February 12 and consist of attending a hockey game at Hershey sports arena.

It was a deeply moving experience we will never forget. The ascent back to the top was almost an afterthought.

Hawaii has a now famous bumper sticker. It reads, "Wouldn't You Rather Be Riding A Mule On Molokai?" I sure would.

Berks Co. Society 9

The January meeting of the Berks County Society of Farm Women Group 9 was held in the home of Mrs. Ruth Hafer. Mrs. Grace Ebling, county president, was present to install new officers. New program booklets were distributed and plans for the coming year were discussed.

The program for the

The Dauphin County Society of Farm Women Group 1 held it's monthly meeting on January 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Della Parmer. Co-hostess for the evening was Ruth Espenshade.

Roll call was taken with 14 members answering. The business meeting was conducted by Bertha Kennedy, president. The first item discussed was the Christmas party the group had on December 14, 1976 at the Dutch Diner in Palmyra. Twenty-three members and guests attended this function.

The state convention was discussed briefly. Nine members of Group 1 attended the mid-winter meeting on January 10, 1977.

The last item of business was the reading of the group's entry by Kathy Moffatt in the essay contest.

Jo Ann Pickel presented the group with a movie on "How To Have The Nicest Parties...!"

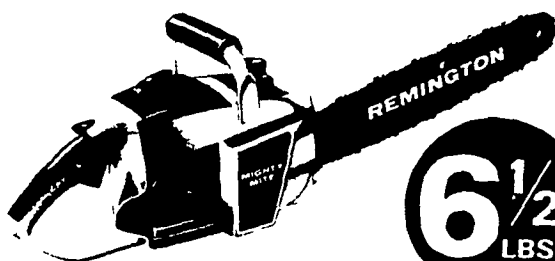
Following the film feature the group was served delicious refreshments by Della Parmer and Ruth Espenshade.

The next meeting of the Dauphin County Society of Farm Women Group 1 will be held on February 8, 1977 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Jean Janssen.

evening was presented by Tammy Hafer, Berks County's alternate dairy princess. She spoke on milk and its nutritional value, giving recipes which encourage the use of milk and its products.

The next meeting will be held on February 2 and will deal with child abuse.

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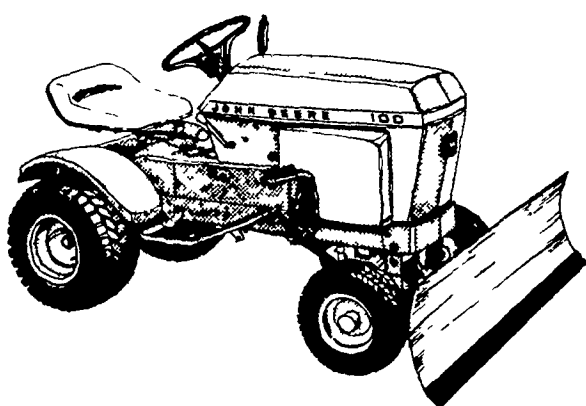
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