

On being a farm wife - and other hazards

By Joyce Bupp



We ran away from home last weekend.

At least once each Winter, our family finds some handy farm-business related reason to make a trip to the central mountains of the state. When warm weather reports held through last Saturday morning, we threw sleeping bags, a change of clothing, and boots for everyone in the car trunk and headed north.

The business was dispensed with in short order. Then we could head for the hidden purpose of the running away - a quick weekend stay at the hunting cabin.

It sits in the shelter of two tall mountain ranges, just off a well-maintained paved road, but neatly hidden by thick, tall pines. The children and I had never been there when snow blanketed the ground and ice silenced the usual noisy mountain stream just outside the back walls of the camp.

Snow brightens the winter woods landscape and makes

finding wildlife signs much easier. Deer tracks led in all directions, crossed occasionally by the trail of a wandering wild turkey. A camp-maintained feeder beyond the stream was as busy as a supermarket. Although we saw no deer come to feed, the small woods creatures were having a feast. Busybody squirrels - large, bushy-tailed grays and the outlaw small red ones - raced up and down the oak trees like so many trucks wheeling down the Interstates. Blue jays decorated the pines almost as thickly as starlings at the barn bunk feeders, screaming at one another as they fought over the golden grains.

Interior decorated in early second-hand, the cabin boasts few of the luxuries of home. Electricity does give us light for reading, playing games and refrigeration, although a snow bank is just as handy. The absence of blaring TV commercials and a constantly ringing telephone are welcomed, to

be replaced by the cozy sounds of wood crackling in the two stoves.

We have running water, of course. It runs constantly, piped from a spring high in the mountains. All you have to do is go outside and bring it in with a bucket. Placed in a huge old pot and kept on the back of the kitchen cookstove, it's even ready at a moment's notice for those who don't like to wash their hands in cold water. The "comfort facilities" are handy - just a short jog through the fresh air to the other side of the lawn. (Somehow in the middle of Winter, "comfort" does not seem quite an accurate description.)

What do we do in the hunting cabin? Nothing - and that's the joy we find in running away for a recharge on life occasionally.

TRY A CLASSIFIED

Women's Calendar

Saturday, Feb. 19
Lancaster County Society 3 meeting at 2 p.m. Hostess is Mrs. Walter Trumbauer. The program is Donald Stauffer speaking on fire safety.

Lancaster County Society 18 meeting to entertain Society 6 at the Farm and Home Center at 1:30. Program is "New Salad Ideas" by Doris Thomas.

Lancaster County Society 8 at 2 p.m. Program is Faye Stoner, IFYE exchange student.

Chester County Society 21 attending a hockey game at the Hershey Sports Arena at 8 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 21
Lancaster County Society 31 meeting at 7:30 p.m. County dues payable \$2.

Tuesday, Feb. 22
Lancaster County Society 27

meeting at 7 p.m. at Lehman's Rest Home.
Berks County Society 3 meeting at the home of Mrs. William Moyer. Program on macrame.

Wednesday, Feb. 23
Lancaster County Society 24 meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Jacob Wise. Program will be on "Self Improvement."

Chester County Society 1 meeting at the home of Mrs. Charles Sprout. Meeting will be sewing for needlework guild and

making items for Embreeville.

Thursday, Feb. 24
Lancaster County Society 11 meeting at 1:30 p.m.
Lancaster County Society 28 meeting. The program is by Mrs. Michael Valavanes entitled "Village Life Customs in Greece."

Saturday, Feb. 26
Lancaster County Society 29 meeting at 8 p.m. The program is a hockey game at the Hershey Sports Arena.

Lancaster County Society 4 meeting at the Farm and Home Center.

CECIL DAIRY SERVICE OPEN HOUSE

We are extending an invitation to all farmers and interested persons to attend our open house at our newly located facilities on Route 274, 1/2 mile south of Riding Sun, Maryland.

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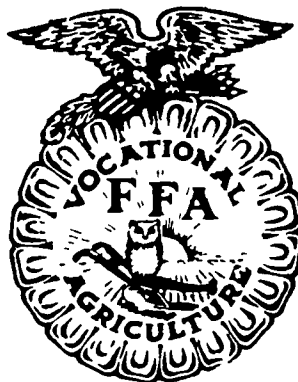
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