

My Thoughts

By JOANNE SPAHR

I stood there scowling as the slowly approaching evening surrounded me. Why is it, I thought to myself, that everywhere I go, I have to take my entire life's possessions with me?

I was standing, slump shouldered, hands in my pockets to keep them warm, in front of the Penn Harris Motor Inn last week contemplating my camera bag, typewriter case, tape recorder, and overnight bag. I'd come to do a story on the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association Sweetheart Legislative Conference, and I'd come prepared—too prepared.

Isn't it bad enough, I continued in conversation with myself, that everywhere I go I have to lug around a portable U-Haul in the form of a camera bag-purse in which I stuff a 35 millimeter camera, three changes of lenses, an electronic flash, 29 pens, six pencils, two erasers, two notepads, kleenex, four extra rolls of film, and an ink stained, ripped dollar bill (which may or may not be legal tender at this point.) No, that must not be bad enough, I decided, because this time I had brought along a cassette tape recorder and a 35 pound portable electric typewriter, plus a change of clothes, hair dryer, and other miscellaneous items in an overnight bag.

How, I kept lamenting to myself, was I going to carry all that heavy luggage into the motel? (I, of course, would never think of making two trips because that would be too much trouble.)

Well, the only thing to do was give it a whirl.

So, I tried all sorts of arrangements and ended up with my overnight bag hanging around my neck with the bag in the back, knapsack style; my camera case on my one shoulder; my tape recorder in one free hand; and my typewriter in the other.

Aha, I thought. I did it. Only I didn't, because I didn't get more than a few steps before the overnight bag started choking me, the camera case slipped down into my elbow with a jolt, and I nearly dropped my typewriter because of the weight. Like a well-planned domino game, my sojourn to the motel room was over in a second.

Another plan of attack was in order. As I was mulling it over, however, I noticed a petite young woman hurrying toward me.

"Here, let me help you," twinkled the size five sophisticate. Decked out in a sleek brown leather coat, suede boots, matching gloves, and flowing, contrasting scarf, the stylish 5'2" little lady willingly held out her hands to take my lead weights.

Lumberjack-type individual that I am, I looked

at the helpful, tiny person and thought simultaneously, "Gee, how nice," and "I bet you never lifted anything heavier than your pet poodle in your life." What I said was, "Thank you very much, but I believe these things may be too heavy for you."

"Oh, nonsense," she retorted, "You ought to lift tobacco bales like I do — then you'd know what's heavy."

With these words, she was off like the bionic woman with my typewriter, camera bag, and overnight bag — leaving me with the measly little tape recorder. Sheepishly, I followed her in with my miniscule load. When we got to the room she introduced herself as a farm wife from Lancaster County who was at the Penn Harris to help with the legislative conference. Suddenly the whole image I had of her changed, and, once more I was reminded of a fact which never ceases to amaze me — farm women have the talent of combining attractiveness, grace, and poise with great physical stamina — a rare combination, and one to be admired.

Base milk price \$10.28 for January

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Middle Atlantic Order Market Administrator Joseph D. Shine last week announced a January 1977 base milk price of \$10.28 per hundred-weight and an excess milk price of \$8.17. The weighted average January price is \$9.98 and the butterfat differential for the month is 10.4 cents for each tenth of a pound of fat. The January base milk price is up one cent from December 1976 but is 68

cents below last January. Order No. 4 prices are announced for 3.5 per cent milk f.o.b. plant location within 55 miles of Philadelphia, Pa. and also within 75 miles from the nearer of Washington, Dc. or Baltimore, Md. There is a six-cent direct-delivery differential applicable to producer milk received at plants located within 55 miles of Philadelphia. Shine stated that producer receipts totaled 465 million pounds during January, an

increase of 0.7 per cent from the previous month and almost eight per cent above the comparable figure a year ago. Class I producer milk totaled 286.6 million pounds and accounted for 61.64 per cent of total January milk receipts, compared to 62.78 per cent in December and 68.25 per cent last January. Base milk accounted for 85.90 per cent of total producer milk receipts in January, down from 89.48 per cent a year ago. There were 7,979 producers supplying Order No. 4 handlers during the month and the average daily delivery per producer was 1,880 pounds. Middle Atlantic Order pool handlers reported Class I in-area milk sales of 243.0 million pounds during January, a contra-seasonal

drop of 2.4 per cent from December 1976.

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