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## My Thoughts

And welcome to them

By JOANNE SPAHR

"Hey, lady, look at me!"  
"Lyle, watch me, I can disappear!"  
"Hey, where are the pigeons? I can see they were here, sometime."

With these rambunctious shouts, four boys were running, jumping, and playing in our hay mow the other day, when a friend of mine who works at a home for boys brought out four of his best-behaved charges for some time on the farm.

Awk, they're going to kill themselves, I thought, as thick dust jumped off the bales when the boys slammed and slid around on them. Or else, I realized, they are going to kill me through suffocation. My hand went to my throat and I started choking from the 10-year-old dust that was having a hay day in my nose, throat, and lungs. It had been so long since I'd played in the hay mow that I'd forgotten what it was like. But, these boys were bringing it all back.

One got particular pleasure by jumping in the space under some stacked bales, and playing hide and seek from his friends. I could just tell that he thought that particular fortress was his,

because he had been the first to find it. Therefore, the other three were only allowed to stand and watch while he jumped in and out of the straw fort, time and time again. But, this hogging of the straw castle was only tolerable for a short time before Kevin, the leader of the bunch, got the bright idea of how to top the 12-year-old king of the castle.

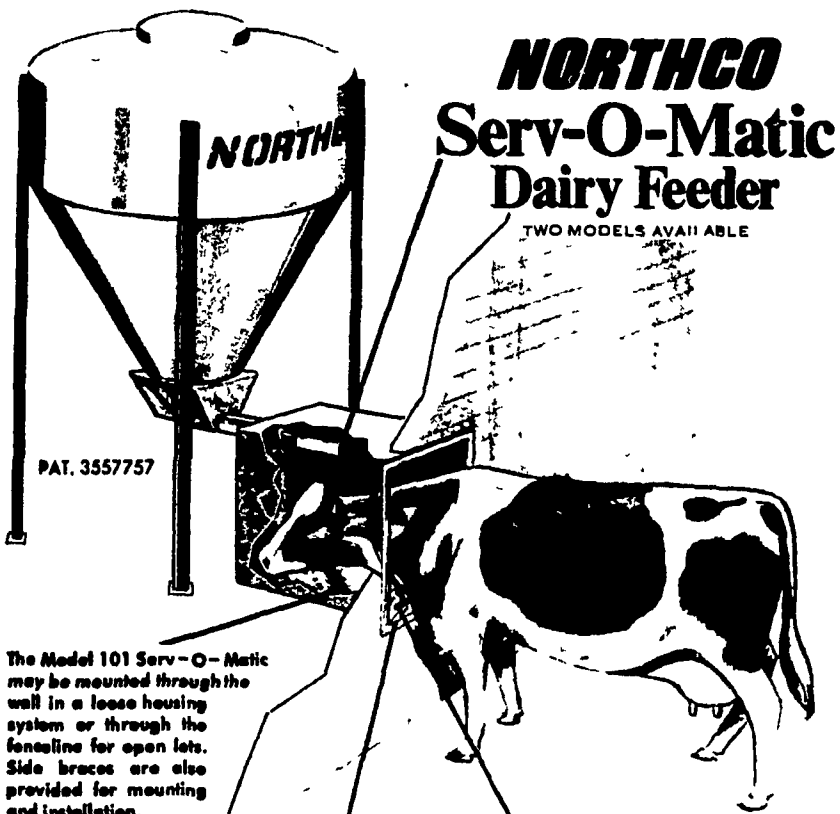
Kevin's idea was to slide from the top of the mow down to the floor on the gradually sloping stack, which he found, when he reached the bottom, was a little tough on his own bottom. But, that didn't matter - it was fun, and the other guys wanted to try it, so they did it about three times.

There was more playful hopping around, and then Kevin got the bright idea to walk on the rafters. When I saw this, acid hit my stomach, and I envisioned a giant stone lawsuit hitting my parents right on the head.

It was time to get the boys out of the barn before something disastrous did happen. When they heard the news, of course, they were upset. No 12-year-old mind grasps danger, much less the concept of a lawsuit. But, we took them into the house for something to drink, and in no time, three of the four were sacked out on the couch and chairs. They were all content and pooped and ready for dinner - all except Kevin, that is. We all know that leaders are invincible.

The point to be made here, is that although these boys are considered juvenile delinquents by the state, allow them just a short time of good, honest fun on the farm and they are as behaved and content as any other 12-year-old.

One asset that many city children no longer have that farm children always will, is a constructive, entertaining outlet for their energies. We can be thankful for that.



The Model 101 Serv-O-Matic may be mounted through the wall in a loose housing system or through the fenestration for open lots. Side braces are also provided for mounting and installation.

The feeder opening is designed to permit only one cow to eat at a time. A 2 inch auger drops approximately 1 lb. of concentrate per minute into the feeder . . . this is the same rate the cow eats . . . no feed remains in the feeder when she moves away.

A simple magnet around the cow's neck will activate the feeder meter as she places her head into the feeder. Cows without a magnet are unable to get feed

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Each cow producing 10 lb. or more over the herd average should receive extra feed. In actual trials, cows on the Serv-O-Matic consume an extra 10 lbs. of grain per day (while eating some less in the parlor). Milk output shows an average increase of 1 lb. of milk for each pound of concentrate fed through the Serv-O-Matic . . . some as high as 5 lbs. of milk per pound of feed!

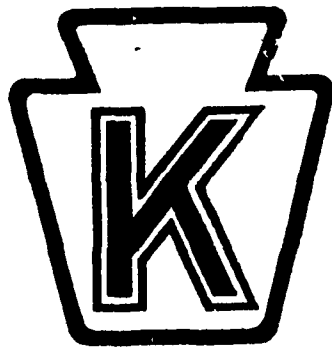
One Serv-O-Matic will normally handle 20-30 cows in an 80-120 cow herd. Normal procedure is to put fresh cows on extra ration and remove the magnet when production drops to a predetermined level.

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