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My Thoughts

And welcome to them

By JOANNE SPAHR
Associate Editor



This can't be happening to me, I hysterically repeated to myself as I looked down at the jeans engulfing my ankles. The little wooden building I was in at that time was shaking and rocking on its meager foundations while my one girlfriend flailed and flung her body in front of mine, trying desperately to shield me from view of the peephole, and a second was frantically pulling with all her weight to keep that one and only entrance to the cubicle from flying wide open. And, there I sat, in the midst of the confusion, glued in terror to the splintery wooden hole, screaming my lungs out and promising myself that I'd never ever go to the bathroom again if I got out of this one alive.

How, I asked myself, as I saw my girlfriend lose ground and the door pull away from the sill by a quarter of an inch, did I, Joanne Marie Spahr, always find myself in these sort of predicaments?

For instance, why had I been the first of the three girls to sit down, and why had the guys decided just at that moment to raid the outhouse, and why was the skinniest one of the three of us pitting her mere 90 pounds against the 160 pound bruisers outside?

But, most importantly, what was I going to do when the door gave way, letting in the cool damp, evening mountain air along with seven flashlight beams?

Just as that last question passed through my mind, my protectress left me exposed to the world and joined the tug-of-war for the door. Looking down and sizing up my awkward position, I stood up, got dressed, and took part in the now-full-fledged war for the title of king-queen of the outhouse.

Taking my station to the rear of the second defender, I grabbed hold of her waist and yanked, straining with all I had. All eyes glued to the opening and closing door, the three of us realized that the guys were winning, as quarter inch by quarter inch the door was opening outward.

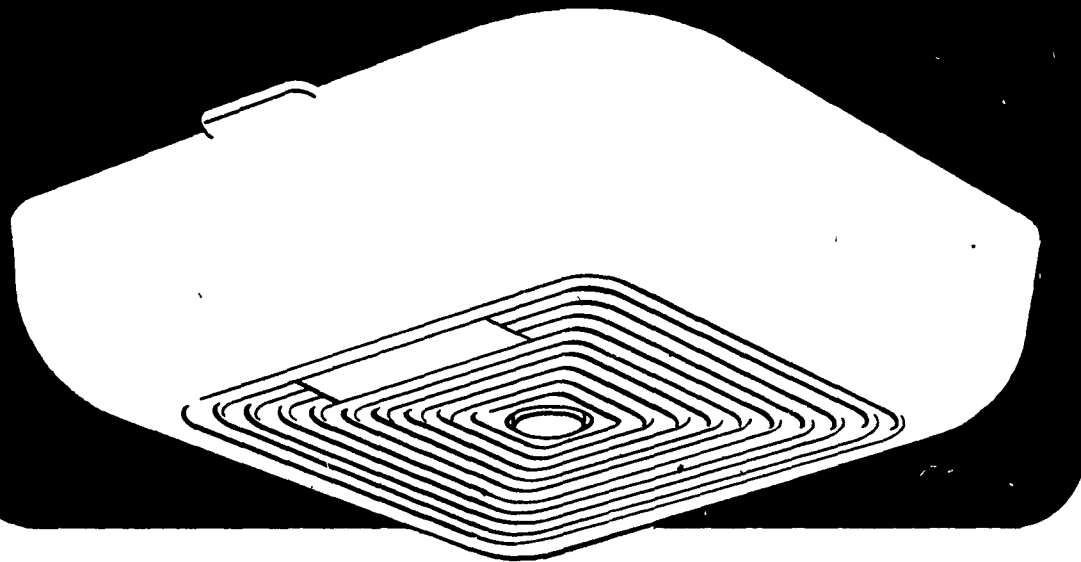
Then, out of the blue, all resistance ended from the outside, and - WHAP- the door slammed shut with a crack that nearly toppled over the little building.

Picking ourselves up off the wooden seats in the rear of the outhouse, the three of us looked at each other in shock for a few seconds until we found ourselves pelted with jets of water coming in all directions through the outhouse peep and knot holes.

Knowing we'd met our Waterloo, we stormed out of the bathroom, eager for negotiations and ready to get on with the 4-H meeting.

What club were we in? What else - the 4-H Wildlife Club.

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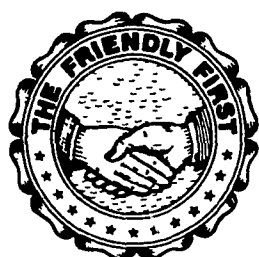
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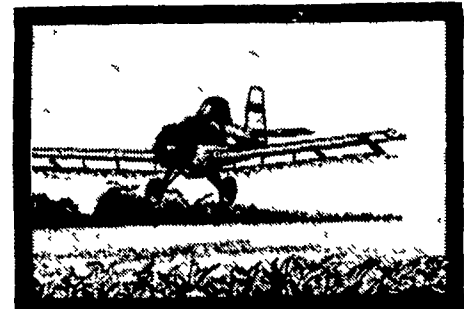
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