

# LIFE on the farm

By Dieter Krieg

Girls, cars, and cows -- that's about all we were interested in. I suppose that's normal for many college students, although cows, of course, don't rate too high with anyone except dairy majors.

You'd think a college student would have all sorts of profound subjects to talk about. But the group I hung around with didn't. The Viet Nam War was in its early stages while I was at Penn State, but we hardly knew about it. All we had on our minds was girls, cars, and cows.

Occasionally we'd think about studies for a little bit.

Why, those college years are so far back that we young men even opposed mini-skirts. But it didn't take long before we liked that fashion.

Long hair was just coming on the scene during the mid-Sixties, but anyone enrolled in agriculture had the cow clippers to contend with if that's the hair style he chose. Long hair was for girls only. Especially if you were in agriculture.

Girls, cars, and cows. That was what we usually had on our mind. Only with a couple of us it wasn't necessarily in that order, judged by the topics of "bull sessions" which often dragged on into the wee hours.

It used to bewilder one of my city-reared buddies who was a rather studious type and has since gone on to become a metallurgical engineer with executive responsibilities. Nearly every time he'd come in for a break from his book work, Dale and I snowed him with talk about registered Holsteins, pedigrees, production records, dairy herd management, and anything else having to do with cows. "Cows, cows, cows! Is that all you can talk about? I don't believe you guys!" he'd proclaim in mock protest and genuine amusement.

But even Rich found cows sort of interesting, especially when we explained judging to him. When we told him we often applied the scoring system to girls we see on campus, downtown, or anywhere, he became especially interested. One year we

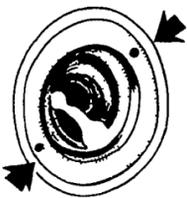
had him enter the Hoard's Dairyman Cow Judging Contest. That was a real accomplishment, considering that Rich probably couldn't have distinguished the udder from the brisket before he met Dale and me.

Being dairy science majors, cows weren't an inappropriate subject to talk about, although I must admit we layed it on a little thick at times just to needle Rich. Often (or always, as the case may be) being lovesick, the fun and laughter didn't come as easy sometimes when girls was the topic of conversation. As for cars, we checked out the ads in magazines, discussed the features, and argued over which one was best.

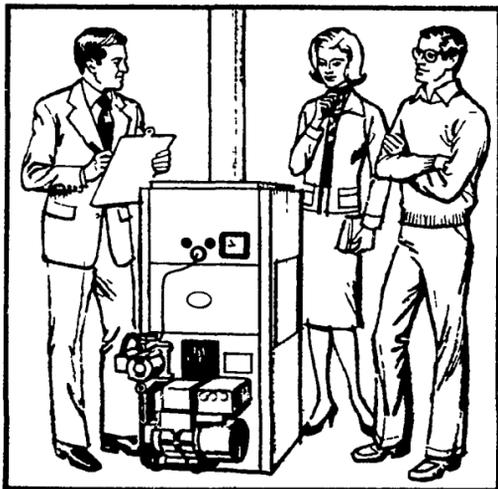
To some recent graduates of colleges and universities, my four years at Penn State may sound as exciting as a cow chewing her cud. But despite all the small talk and bull sessions and occasional pranks, we were there to learn. As for protests, which became popular later, that sort of nonsense doesn't sit too well with students who have their roots in a life on the farm.

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