



My Thoughts

And welcome to them

By JOANNE SPAHR
Assistant Editor

I'll admit it. I've never had the grand champion steer at Farm Show or blue ribbon yeast rolls, or a first place skirt, or even a third place pair of

knitted booties. But, I have had something as good as that—I've had fun.

Take my first junior high school bus trip to Harrisburg for instance.

Smitten with love for the curly-haired basketball player who sat behind me in math, I left with my class for the Farm Show that year determined that I'd get to know him a little better. (He'd won my heart one day when, after showing me how to do an algebra problem, he said with arrogance, "Boy,

Spahr if you had any brains, you'd be dangerous." That was it—this was the man for me.)

Now, at Farm Show, there were a myriad of ways to draw attention to yourself several of which I tried that year. I particularly remember the "Oh, please help me, I'm stuck on the big tractor" ploy.

This was an excellent little game which offered three advantages. First of all, you got to climb onto the biggest tractor in the exhibit area and pretend you were driving it (only farm girls like myself got thrills out of that.) At the same time, you got to look out over the whole crowd to pick out the boy of your choice and spy on him from above.

But, the clincher was that when he came down your aisle, you were supposed to yell out, "Yoo-hoo, I'm stuck up here," hoping he'd take the hint and help you down.

Typical of my luck, the year I tried this stunt, the curly head went past and yelled back, "Good. Hope you miss the bus!" (Real nice guy.)

Then, too, I remember trailing him around from food stand to food stand, buying French fries, ice cream cones, milk shakes, hot dogs, etc., until I went broke. If I recall properly, that was the only time in my life I put on 10 pounds in one day trying to cultivate a friendship.

But, the most lingering memory of it all, is that of sitting in the seats supposedly watching a steer show, and looking up to see the curly head and my best girl friend holding hands on the sidelines.

That was it. That did it. I'd gotten a sprained ankle from jumping off the tractor unassisted, popped the button on my skirt from gaining 10 pounds, and ruined my complexion from all the sugar and French fries. And, then to top it off, there I was, sitting and watching while my best friend horned in on the love of my life.

Needless to say, I learned my lesson. Now I watch the livestock shows.

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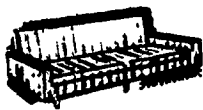
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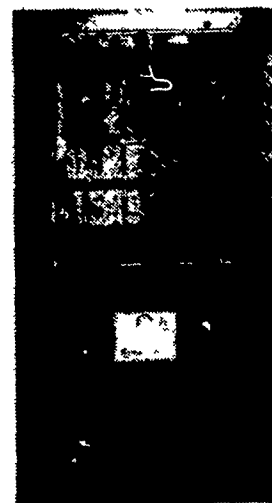
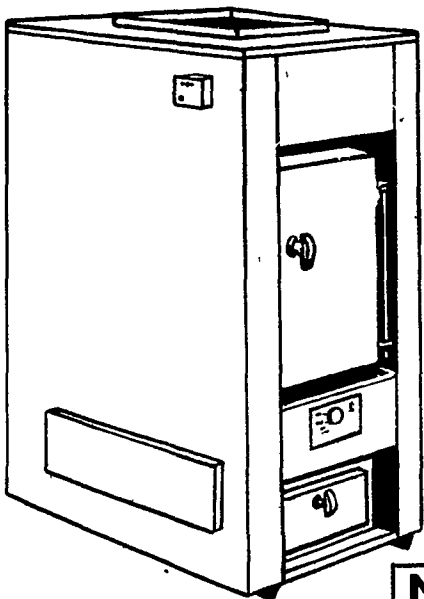
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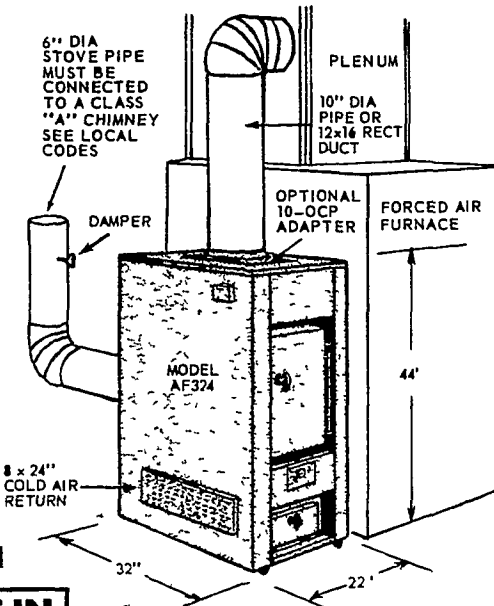
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