



Life on the farm By Dieter Krieg

Too bad my brother and I never had a manager for our musical talents. At one time we had the best rock band going in all of Woodbine, including the suburbs. Unfortunately, nobody ever heard the fantastic music except our mother.

We played nearly every evening when the milking was done and Dad

had disappeared to the comfort of a living room chair to watch the Huntley-Brinkley news show.

Ingo and I were way ahead of our time with the kind of stuff we played and the way we conducted ourselves during the performance. We were the ones who invented wild music.

It all began with the clanging and

banging of milking machine parts, buckets, strainers, lids, a stripcup, and sometimes even the cats' milk dish. Add to that the sounds of splashing water, a few slams against the stainless steel tub, some drumming action on overturned buckets and a few special effects from the large lids of the bulk tank, and you had a really wild show.

The performance went best during the Summer, but the cold of Winter was okay too. The main difference was that we wouldn't get ourselves soaking wet with all that action.

Our poor mother gave us the most fun out of the entire show. When she'd come walking into the milk house from the calf barn on the other side of the barn yard, she'd invariably ask loudly if we had gone completely crazy. We'd smile mischievously and raise the volume just a little. Mom was always glad to be on her way back to the calves, leaving us with the impression that she thought we were worthless. But occasionally we'd catch a twinkle in

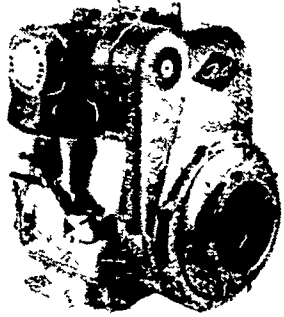
her eye that said she loved us for our crazy behavior.

The beat went on. The lids of buckets were cymbals which clanged loudly, and the swirling of a brush in water became a symphony in itself.

Before long, all the milking equipment was stacked on the drying rack, the plugs were pulled out of the washtubs and the sounds of water splashing on the floor provided the closing notes of the grand performance. A couple bucketfuls of water tossed around the milk house floor accented the closing moments.

Back then it was just to have a little fun, and tease Mom while going about the routine chores in the milk house after the evening milking. But I still say, had we videotaped and recorded our performances, Ingo and I could be collecting royalties to this day. We were wilder and wetter than any bunch you've seen or heard on radio or television. All we lacked was long hair, and we could have found some extra baler twine to take care of that.

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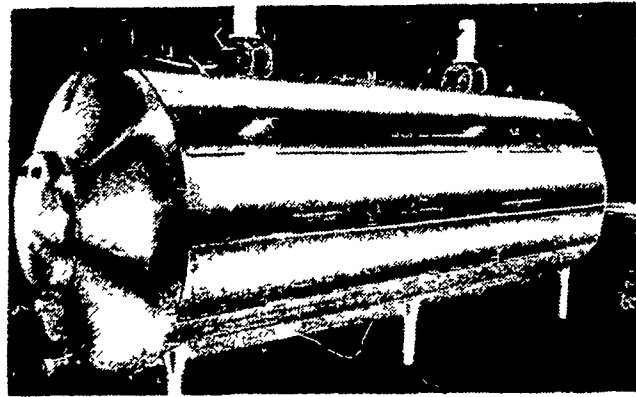
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