

### On being a farm wife -And other

hazards

By JOYCE BUPP

Our household has little use for aspirins, tranquilizers or other moodcalming helps. I prefer another approach.

Whack a weed!

Parts of the perennial border have been rendered weedless thanks to some recent incidents that left me with the personality of a land mine about to be run over.

As farm employers, we are required to carry



Workmen's Compensation on our men. Okay. That's the law. We obey. We pay.

But, abuse of the program has led to most private insurance carriers adopting a hands-off policy regarding this mandated insurance. So. typically, the government has gotten in the act and "provided" this service for us farm employers.

Some bureaucrat has decided that dairy farm employees should be at the top of the premium scale and set the charge of \$9.10 for every \$100 paid to employees. Even the insurance broker handling the policies admits that there's been no cause shown to set the premiums so outrageously high, but hopes it will come down in a few years.

Now, I ask you, when has a government program of any kind ever dropped in cost? Most businesses must already carry comprehensive liability policies, and

most people also carry health insurance plans. Why all this double insurance?

After writing that premium check, it was a choice between banging my head against a wall or whacking into the roots of those weeds. The wall is still standing; however, creeping nettle is no longer a problem among the iris and the hollyhocks.

Just when I finally got myself calmed down, I was confronted with a bill from a supplier of LP gas, used in the barn for heating water in dairying operations. Ten days after delivery, a 10 per cent finance charge would be slapped onto the bill if not paid. Total finance charges for a year, the bill announced, would amount to 73 per cent!

"Ripoff!" I screamed and sent a note back with the payment relieving the company of any further deliveries of the fuel.

So they came and took out their storage tank. Late on a Friday afternoon. Without even contacting us about a shutoff time. Leaving us for a weekend with no hot water. It was too late that day for the new supplier to set in their tank and hook it up, although preliminary arrangements had been made.

The answer to our irate phone calls was an offer to hook the gas back up for a "slight fee" and "most gas companies do business this

Only after two more hours of whacking at intruding crabgrass and thistles was I able to get rid of the urge to punch someone in the face.

If we ever run out of weeds to whack, I'm gonna' be in big trouble.



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