Tractor pulling

(Continued from Page 100)

poration. He reportedly contacted fellow Lancaster Countians Lester Houck and Mark Stauffer to see if they'd be interested in

traveling across the Atlantic with their machines. Both men accepted the invitation and challenge.

The underlying reason to bring tractor pulling to The

Netherlands was to bolster interest in the World Plowing Contest, which was being held in that country last Fall. The general consensus was that a lively and noisy tractor pulling demonstration

America could give the event a needed "shot in the arm."

It did just that. Officials for the plowing contest expected no more than 20,000 people to show up for the 2day event. As it turned out,

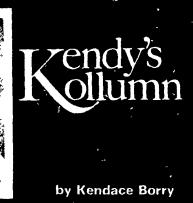
28,000 were counted in on the first day, and 53,000 jammed the area on the second day.

Lester Houck, one of the pioneers of tractor pulling in Lancaster County and incumbent secretary of the National Tractor Pullers Association (NTPA), remembers the preparations that were involved in making the 4000-mile transoceanic journey.

With tractor pulling being something totally new in Europe, the Dutch organizers needed a sled. A fully equipped and weighted

sled weighs 53,000 pounds which made for quite a shipping order. The Lancaster Countians stripped the sled of the weight box and sent specifications to have an identical one built by the Dutch. That cut the weight of the sled in half and reduced shipping costs to \$20,000. Once it arrived in Holland, the newly constructed and properly weighted box was fit onto the sled and the contraption was ready for action. Lancaster Countian Dan Brubaker (Turn to Page 102)





Although my parents' room was only separated from mine by a wall, you had to wind through all the up tairs rooms in between to get from the one place to the other. As a result, there were times when I could feel pretty isolated from the rest of the family.

Sometimes late at night or early in the morning I would wake up and all would be quiet. In my childish mind, I would wonder if I was suddenly all alone in the world.

Immediately I would lean out of bed and pound my clenched fist against the wall bordering my parents' room. I wanted assurance that not everyone had gone off and left me.

In a few seconds, my knock would be answered by my mother's gentle tapping on the thick boards. No matter what time of the day or night, she never failed to hear my anxious summons, and would soothe my fearful thoughts with her quiet rapping that all was well.

Of course there were other times when she would thump on the wall to rouse me out of bed, or summon me to her rooom for questioning of some dire deed I was suspected of doing, but all my life I will remember those taps that reassured me that all in the world was as it should be.

Salute to you, Mother. Though never mentioned, it will be the little things you do that are long remembered.

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