

On being a farm wife

-And other hazards

By **JOYCE BUPP**

Denim jeans seem to have become almost everyone's favorite article of clothing and farm wives are no different. We wear them, not just because they're popular, but because they fit so perfectly into our busy lifestyles.

Once, in a moment of weakness many years ago, I attempted to wear a dress around this house. The cows promptly got out, and I had to hastily change to go chase the rascals.

That was the first and last time I ever attempted such weekday feminity.

Farm wives of two generations ago, however, had a different favorite article of dress. No rural lady worth her canning salt would have been caught in public during the daytime without her allencompassing apron.

Mrs. Chester Stroh, a speaker at the state Society of Farm Women's Spring rally last week at Hershey, paid tribute to those longwearing, long-suffering aprons of checked gingham or dark cotton materials. And she gave me a new respect for that almost forgotten housewife accessory.

How did you carry the eggs from the henhouse, your tomatoes and beans from the garden, a supply of wood for the old cookstove, or the new nest of baby chicks that turned up in the back corner of the barn?

Why, you made a carrying bag by grasping the corners of that generous and accomodating apron and moved whatever it was to a more useful location, all in one quick trip.

If company unexpectedly dropped by, and the children sported dirty faces, that apron served as a handy washcloth and towel for an impromptu facial.

The protective cottons lent themselves as potholders for the bread and cakes coming from the oven, cloths for cleaning spotted eye glasses or dusty tables, or as handy swatters for a pesty fly sitting on your forehead.

Shy toddlers hid behind the familiar apron and peeked out at strangers from its safety and security.

It was a sweater when you were chilly; it was a fan when the sun grew hot overhead. You could laugh into it or use it for wiping away tears of sadness.

And when it was dirty, you

Ida's Notebook

The square dance group, Foot and Fiddle, which Allen and I helped to start has just completed its 31st year. Sometimes other groups in the county claim to be the oldest but I disagree with their claims. In fact the forerunner of our group was the Rural Youth of Lanrickrack trimmed blouse to caster County and my church! husband helped to organize that group in 1937. So our roots really go rather far back in this area of recreation. In 1946 I attended a Recreation School at Plainfield, Vermont, and it was an experience in international living. Some of

dard College for two weeks. But to get back to what I started to say - at the most recent meeting of our group, I was asked if I'd worn my square dance dress to

the participants at that time

were planning to travel to

Europe and start the new

state of Israel. There were

Negroes, Chinese and

Swedes, all living at God-

could turn it over and there it was, your closest friend, companion and confidante, all ready to serve you for another whole week.

church. For a moment, I was perplexed at such a question; but, then I realized what was meant. This style of dress is now in "style" as I'd discovered when my daughter bought a new dress for a concert. Imagine, wearing my wide skirt and

XXXXX

A few weeks ago when there was a strong wind blowing, Philip lost his expensive basketball. He had laid it down along the barn wall when he finished playing with it. When it rolled near to his dog, Buster, his sister moved it. Then it simply disappeared.

After a great deal of hunting, it was found across the river, wedged between some limbs on the opposite bank. Somehow it rolled

behind the barn, through the woods and down a hill. The wind must certainly have had fun playing "basketball" that day.

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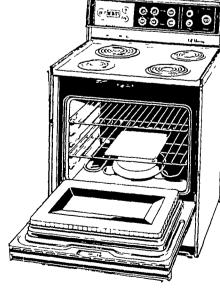
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