



# My Thoughts ...

## And welcome to them

By **JOANNE SPAHR**  
Assistant Editor

I'm resolved to it.  
It took a while, but I've come to accept it, now.  
I didn't want to at first, but now I can handle it  
with a smile  
Yet, I still wince at the thought

There I was, loving Aunt Joanne, just returning  
from taking her adorable nephew for an  
educational walk to the barn, only to be slapped in  
the face with the awful truth.

The scene went something like this:

Joanne: Well, Jeremy, tell Grandma what you  
saw in the barn

Jeremy: (In endearing first word lisp) Cows  
(Laughter and giggles from pleased Grandma  
and Aunt)

Joanne: Jeremy, tell Grandma who took you to  
see the cows

Jeremy (Dead silence)  
(Grandma and Aunt look at each other puzzled)  
Joanne (In attempt to get cute, adorable  
nephew to reward her by saying her name.)  
Jeremy, tell Grandma who took you to see the  
cows.

Jeremy. (No answer.)  
Joanne: (More firmly, frantically trying to get  
beloved child to utter the word "aunt") Jeremy,  
what am I?

Jeremy (With light of recognition in his little  
blue eyes.) Cow.

Joanne: (Chuckling from child's error) No,  
Jeremy, what am I?

Jeremy (Sticking to his guns) Cow  
Joanne: (This time pleading with hurt in voice)  
Jeremy!

Jeremy: (Looking aunt straight in the eye and  
saying firmly, almost viciously) Cow.

Joanne: Jeremy, I'm not a cow!

Jeremy: (Matter-of-factly, ending the conversa-  
tion once and for all) Cow.

Well, there it was. Jeremy thought I was a cow  
Hurt, I began thinking about a so-called compli-  
ment I'd received a few weeks earlier

After a pleasant conversation with a dairy  
farmer, that dairyman turned to me as he parted  
and said, "I'm going to name my next heifer calf  
Joanne"

At the time I took it as a compliment. Now, I  
didn't know.

Then I got cheerful. At least, I realized, if there's  
a cow named Joanne, there's hope that I can still  
get my nephew to say my name

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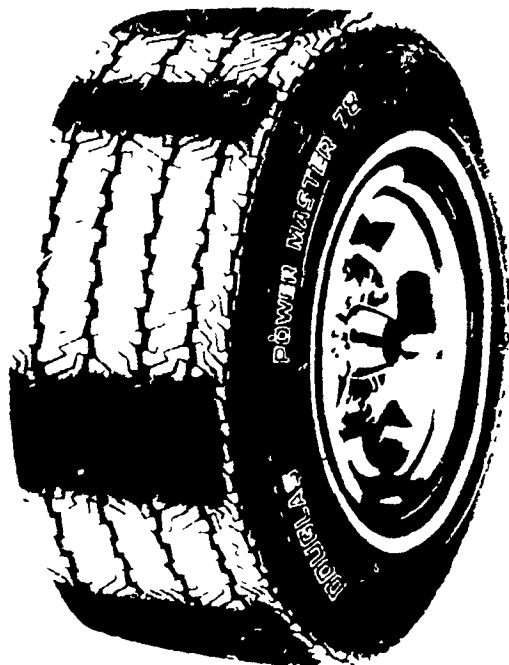
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