

Letters To The Editor

As a member of the Appalachian Trail Conference for 30 years, I find myself at odds with them and the National Park Service over the taking by eminent domain of farm land in the Cumberland Valley for the trail.

I am basing my opinion on the facts as given in your article claiming that an alternate right of way for the trail has been offered by the townships in the area.

If, in fact, these are wide enough to protect hikers from vehicular traffic then it would appear to be adequate. The money that the National Park Service has been granted should be used to improve these and other road areas where the trail now goes.

The Appalachian Trail has given me many hours of enjoyable recreation and the need for it is indisputable in this age. Those twelve miles in the Cumberland Valley are minute compared to the many magnificent miles of rugged scenic country through which it passes.

Finally, taking this land this way sets a dangerous precedent for other recreational uses of private land for such equally deserving groups as horsemen, recreational vehicles, hunters and so on. Perhaps farmers and farm

land should be considered an endangered resource.

Marna Mackay
Boyetown

I have been irked at the tone of the Rural Route cartoons in "Lancaster Farming" quite often, because of the put-down-of-women angle so often used.

Now I know, having been raised on a farm, and now a farmer's wife for 27 years, that there is a lot of humor in the farm husband-wife relationship. The "Hoard's Dairyman" does a good job of playing this angle in their Ed and Emma Cartoons but they are of a softer, more general, and more true-to-life tone, I think.

The Rural Route I've enclosed about snow shoveling from last week's issue really gets me no rural wife I know would be so absolutely stupid farm wives accept the leaf-raking job and do as much as they can, even tho' their suburban counterparts leave it to hubby on the weekends. But none of us, NONE OF US, would be this inane.

Another recent one that bothered me concerned the wife informing that tubby little jerk of a husband that she was going to be away for the afternoon to go to the beauty shop. He then informs her that she'd better

make it a week! Here she is, in the barn helping him, which doesn't do a thing for one's beauty except for rosy cheeks, and he cuts her up.

Do you have to use this male chauvinist cartoon strip? And do you have to put it on the Editorial Page, which gives it more emphasis?

Is it really your attitude? Can't it be buried somewhere in the back with the classifieds if you insist on using it?

I'm not one of these that says, "I'm going to cancel our subscriptions," but I do think farm wives in general deserve better treatment than this cartoon gives them.

As I said, I've been a farmer's daughter, a farmer's wife, and in between an agricultural extension service employee in two states farm wives are not this stupid.

Joanne Passmore
R1
Townsend, Del.

Editor's Note: The opinions expressed or implied by all of LANCASTER FARMING'S columnists are their own, and not necessarily those of the paper, editor, or publisher. This includes Tom Armstrong's Rural Route, modeled on his 25-year marriage (a happy one we're assured). While we hope to present a broad spectrum of informed editorial comment, we do not seek to offend any of our readers. Your remarks have been passed along to Armstrong.

Farmers never get the publicity they deserve for a job well done.

I'm enclosing a page from a daily paper which says Americans are spending two and a half times as much on

motor vehicles and parts today as they did 10 years ago.

In contrast, they are spending less than twice as much as they did on food.

Why is an item like this buried at the very bottom of page 13 next to a big ad instead of given the display it should be to give farmers credit for the good job they are doing?

The article also gives some figures showing total personal spending in 1970 and 1978.

Food does quite well as you can see:

Food prices rose from \$136.3 billion to \$296.4 billion. At the same time motor vehicles and parts jumped from \$34.9 billion to \$89.7 billion.

Furniture and household equipment went from \$36.7 billion to \$77.7 billion. Other durable goods went from \$13.3 to \$30.0 billion.

Clothing and shoes went from \$46.6 billion to \$89.0 billion while fuel oil and coal jumped from \$5.4 billion to \$14.9 billion.

And housing went up from \$94.0 billion to \$207.3 billion while transportation jumped from \$21.1 billion to \$52.6 billion and other services climbed from \$115.7 billion to \$264.9 billion.

If we look at those figures for just a couple of minutes it becomes obvious that farmers are doing their share to help fight inflation.

Why don't the people in the

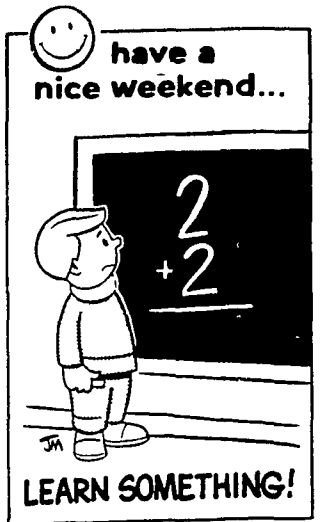
towns and cities get to see this story on page 1 where it belongs?

Albert H. Mellinger
R1, Strasburg

The article on Brucellosis on page 45 of the December 29 issue is rather interesting especially when it has been conquered over a decade.

My colleague & I pioneered the original research and developed a vaccine highly effective. Merely treating the symptoms is ineffective.

Robert Jorgens
R1 Endicott, N.Y.



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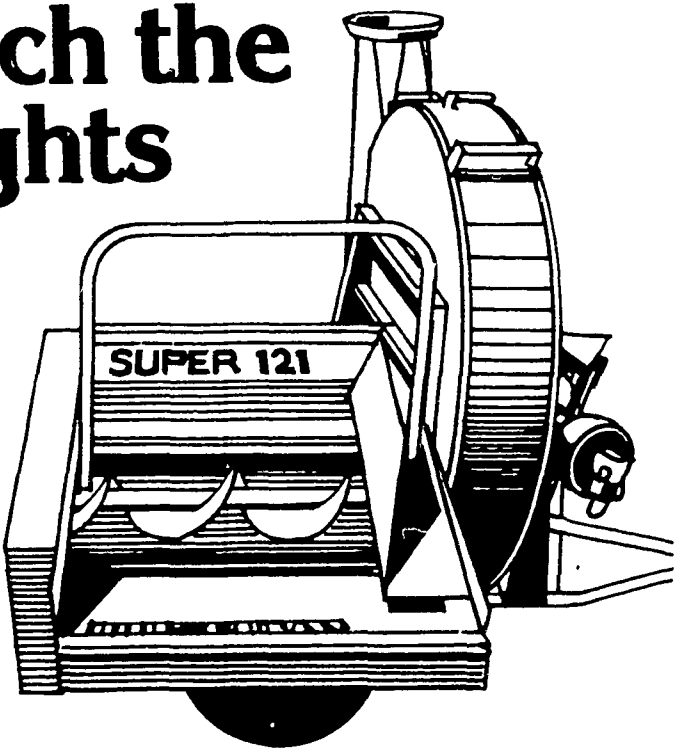
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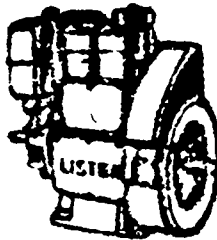
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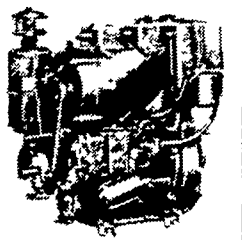
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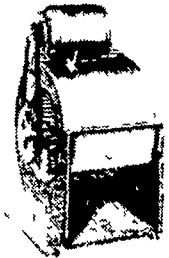
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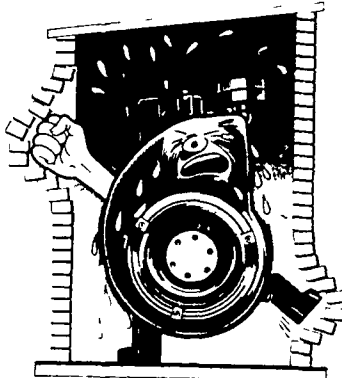


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