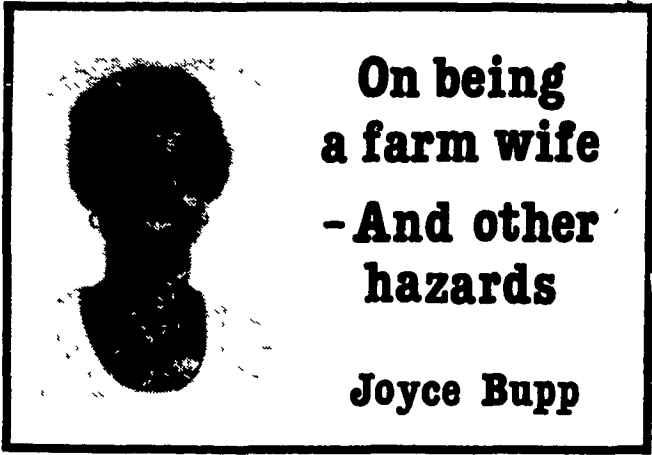


National Grange sewing winners named



**On being
a farm wife
—And other
hazards**

Joyce Bupp

"Please sign on the line." Have you ever thought about how many times in a week you sign your name? Seems there's precious little you can do today without recording it on some impressive-looking document.

Affix your signature to a piece of paper and you can get married (or unmarried), drive a car, take out a permit to remodel, rebuild, remove or release, sue somebody, open an account, take out a loan or charge anything from a cruise around the world to a pair of roller skates.

Long ago, I learned that the farmer would occasionally approach me with a pen in one hand and a carbon-inserted loan application in the other. "Sign this," he'd request. Farming being the large-investment and line-of-credit business it's become today, I scrawled my name on the spot provided and learned to accept the ever-larger operating amounts without staying awake all night worrying about it.

So, when we recently found ourselves situated at a law office table surrounded by a retinue of loan organizations representatives, we knew that "sign on the line" time had again arrived

After a year-long marathon of plans, changes, delays, frustrations and the nation's shakily balanced money markets, a refinancing program to up-date our dairying facilities was finally coming to fruition.

"Would you please sign right here?" came the inevitable request with the first paper handed across the table.

Sheaves of fine print and stacks of first, second and third copies later, the ink was drying on the last signature. An emotional mixture of elation and that now-we've-dug-the-hole-deeper feeling was setting in.

It was then that I glanced at the checkbook stub where out of curiosity I had decided to keep track of how many times we'd signed our names.

During the brief morning's transaction, we'd scrawled a collective total of 72 signatures on papers to borrow, pay, open, close, and attest that we had not been discriminated against nor would discriminate against any others.

Every eventuality was covered and we were not thoroughly enwrapped in the tender arms of legality and indebtedness. The phrase "sign your life away" had suddenly become my motto

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Winners of the nation's largest sewing competition, sponsored by the National Grange, were announced this week by Mary Buffington, Director of Women's Activities for the Grange.

Following national judging held at the Simplicity Pattern Company in New York City, the first place winners in four divisions selected were: Sherryl Hodgkins, Mt. Vernon, Maine; Rebecca Lyford, Caledonia, Illinois; Mrs. Leslie Rivard, Gaines, Michigan; and Sandy Thelen, St. Johns, Michigan.

Mrs. Hodgkins' winning entry in Class A, women's clothes, was a pale blue floral print Gunne Sax designer dress. She is a housewife, has two children and raises Golden Retrievers. Rebecca Lyford, Class B, teen's clothes, used three patterns to achieve a Western look that includes a denim skirt, matching reversible vest and plaid blouse. She is 13 years old

and the paperwork was ready for the filing for posterity and lifetime of paybacks.

The word was "go." Hold it. The world was "stop." Seems that there was still one teeny, weeny paper — an absolute, must-have, necessary one — that was tied up in the web of the U.S. Postal Service.

At this writing, that lone paper that was mailed two weeks previous has not yet been spit out of the jaws of the postal people. It may well be resting in Nome, Alaska, or vacationing in Melbourne, Australia, or have died and gone to postal heaven in Timbuctoo.

Or maybe it just got stuck somewhere on one of its pieces of red tape

and lives on a farm with her parents and three sisters.

Mrs. Rivard, Class C, children's clothes, won first place with an old fashioned Christening gown and cap made for a great grandson. She is a homemaker and mother of seven. Miss Thelen, Class D, boys and girls, took top honors for a dress and coat combination. She is 11 years old and has

been sewing since age five.

Each of the four winners will be awarded a trip to the National Grange convention this November where they will compete for Best of Show and a \$1000 prize given by the National Grange. Other national prizes include a \$500 scholarship from Simplicity Patterns for Miss Lyford (teen division) and Singer sewing machines for

each of the first place national winners. First, second and third place national winners are also eligible for cash and merchandise awards from other sponsors of the contest






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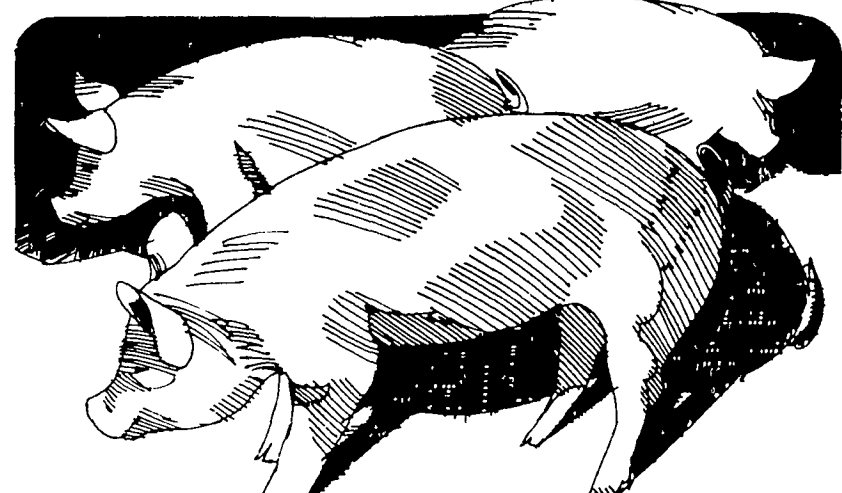
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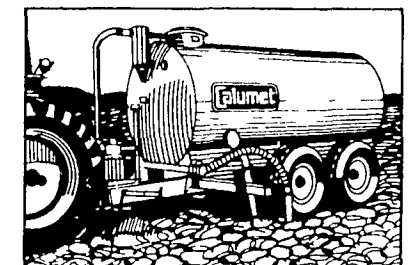
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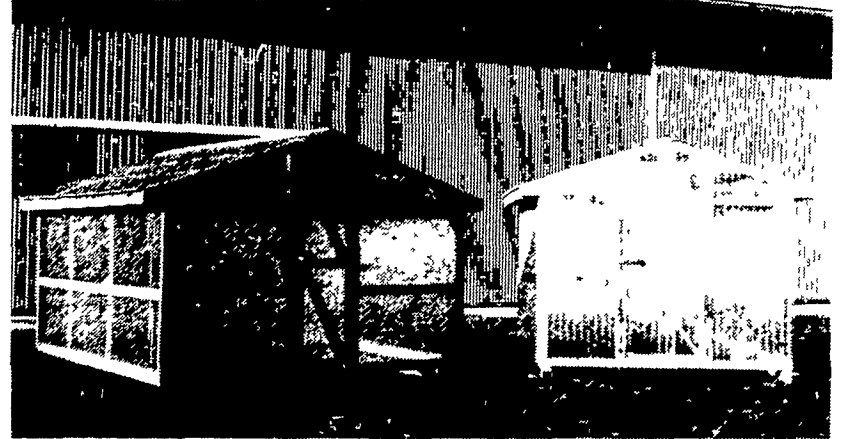
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