

## Ladies Have You Heard?

By Doris Thomas

Lancaster Extension  
Home Economist



### A PICTURE MAY BE WORTH \$1,000

A picture may be worth \$1,000 or considerably more if you ever need to prove your side of an insurance claim.

Good records are essential for proving losses in the event of a fire or burglary. The day after a disaster is no time to list your possessions and try to remember their value. I would encourage you to make records now, before disaster strikes.

Most insurance companies have forms available for listing personal possessions. Revise records as you buy or sell furnishings, jewelry or household goods.

If you have a special collection, fine antiques, a large amount of silver or other valuable items you may consider having a professional appraisal. Many homeowners undervalue their property.

In addition to a written inventory, you should keep receipts for valuable items and take photographs of each room from several angles. Take individual photographs of major pieces showing their condition. Labeled photographs of furniture, stereo equipment, silver, china and special collections will be invaluable if you have to document a claim.

Be sure to inventory the contents of your garage, attic, basement, closets, and cabinets.

Keep your inventory lists, the labeled photographs and your homeowner's insurance policy away from your house in a safe place. A safe deposit box is your best choice.

### KEEP YOUR APPLIANCES ON THE LEVEL

Many minor and some not so minor appliance problems can be the result of equipment that wasn't properly leveled when it was installed. Always check your appliances with a spirit level to assure maximum efficiency and long life.

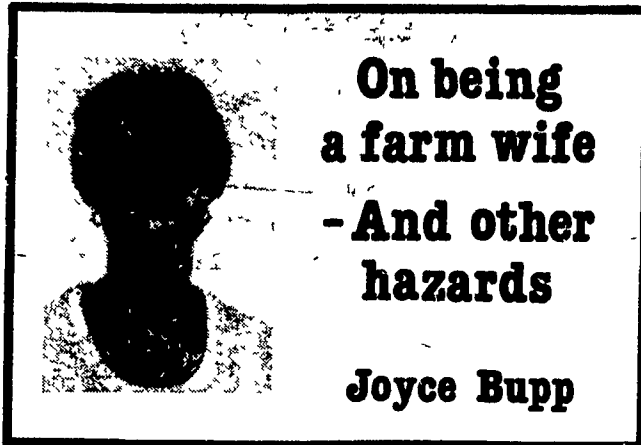
Top-loading washers have a suspension system which holds the tub in place, and the washer must level so the tubs can rotate evenly. Some washers on the market are equipped with a warning buzzer, which alerts you if the load is uneven. The washer then stops until the load can be rearranged. If your washer has such a warning system and it frequently sounds the alarm, double check the appliance to see that it is level.

An imbalance is intensified by the added weight of wet clothes. The shifting weight inside the machine can cause it to walk several inches during an operating cycle. Even more damaging is the resulting stress on the ball bearings of a top-loading tub.

Front-loading washers and dryers have belt-driven drums so that an uneven rotation is not as harmful.

If the floor beneath a washer and dryer is not firm, the appliances can gradually slip out of level again. It's a good idea to check them at least once a year.

Although an uneven position won't permanently damage a refrigerator, it can raise your operating costs and increase the need for defrosting. If the front is



## On being a farm wife -And other hazards

Joyce Bupp

Lumber up your shaking-at-people finger, ladies. It's time for us farm wives to hop on our soap boxes and deliver our annual safety sermon on the horrors of carelessly hurrying through the harvest.

Last year again, there were a couple of you men out there who didn't pay attention to our female pleas to be careful around the harvesting equipment.

And I recall one farmer friend who glared at his bandaged hand and admitted he hadn't paid attention to our trade in this space about removing wedding rings. So another reminder: Hang onto the wife but hang up the ring.

Of all the farm safety angles I seen, one of the most memorable was done by the John Deere firm. It featured a super-busy, careless,

lower than the back, the door may remain ajar, and a slight crack that goes unnoticed may result. Warm air and moisture enter the refrigerator, increase the frost inside and, consequently, operating time. Another problem may be small output of ice from an icemaker because an uneven position will interfere with the flow of water.

Are your baked products lopsided? Check the level of your range, too, although the efficiency of an uneven range is not affected.

Most appliances, except for some ranges, have leveling feet on the front so you can easily adjust the level yourself.

Generally, you'll need a wrench or pliers to turn the screw legs. Then check the spirit level on top of the appliance to make sure it is even from front to back and side to side.

animated cartoon farmer who rushed from one disaster to another. The cartoon style endeared it to our youngsters, who still laugh when they recall the misadventures of the little farmer they just call by his stock-in-trade phrase: "Gotta Go! Gotta Go! Gotta Go!"

Gotta Go never took time to shut down a piece of machinery. Instead, he'd jab his fingers or tools into whatever was stuck, or go carelessly flying across a field, or up a very steep hill, or over a cliff.

My memory isn't clear on all his disasters, but once Gotta Go plunged through the baler and came out neatly bundled and ready for feeding, for instance.

Another time, a combine header, left on for repair, gobbled him up, tossed him around the innards, and ejected him out the straw spreaders.

In typical cartoon style, Gotta Go unbaled himself, walked away from the combine and bounced back after falling over cliffs or rolling upside down. On animated film, it's hilarious.

In real life, it's heart-breaking.

Okay. So maybe you do "gotta go" and hurry up with the harvest. Maybe you are behind schedule. But don't go in such a rush that you get careless. Or your "gotta go" may turn into gone.

Real gone.



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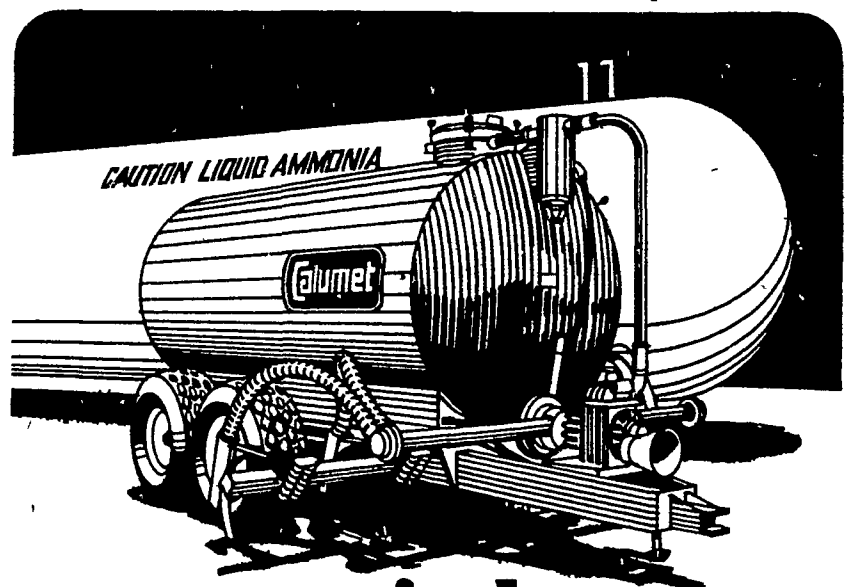
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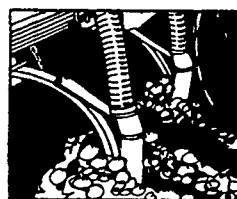
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