

**On being
a farm wife
- And other
hazards
Joyce Bupp**

Hey, know what November is? It's National Farm Wife Month!

I really wonder about something, though. If God had wanted women to be farm wives, you'd think He'd have equipped them differently.

You'd think He might have given them extension arms for gathering eggs, reaching up to a high limb on an apple tree or grabbing for a sow that was halfway out the gate.

You'd think He'd have designed them with broader shoulders for boosting hay bales, bigger hands for washing cows udders and steel-tipped toes for loading steers.

You'd think He'd have stretched their legs just a bit longer for taking bigger strides when chasing escaped heifers and a stronger back for lifting potato sacks and half-bushel baskets of peaches.

But God, of course, in His

infinite wisdom, knows best.

He knew farm women would cope, would find a way to overcome their physical shortcomings, would hold their own when needed to help produce food for a hungry world.

After spending many hours this week rubbing shoulders with farm women from across the country, attending the American Agri-Women convention at Hershey, I'm reminded that God has given these farm partners capabilities that outweigh sheer physical muscling.

He gave them determination, not just to work the fields and barns beside their men, but to go forth and become vital spokesmen for their industry, to speak out and work to preserving the way of life which they cherish for their families.

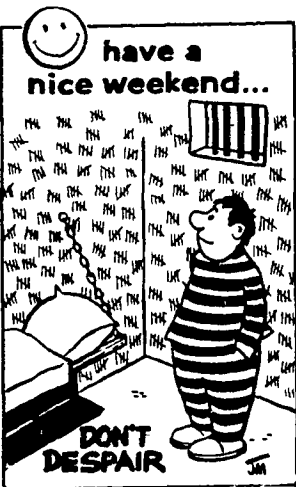
He gave them patience, that extra measure of care to lavish on small children, ailing animals, tender

plants, tired farmers, to soothe and smooth tempers and hurts through drought, hail and eighteen-hour days.

He gave them a sense of humor because in His wisdom God knew that almost anything can be borne more easily through honest and shared laughter, whether it be a tractor stuck in the swamp, pigs in the garden, aphids devouring the alfalfa or the bottom dropping out of the grain market overnight.

And He gave them a sense of faith, deepened and sustained through the seasons that roll on eternally, through years of minimal harvests and those of overflowing bounty.

And in November - and always - farm women pause to thank him for always being there to listen to their problems and their cares and for the blessing of working the land in this rich and free America.



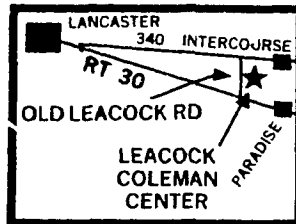
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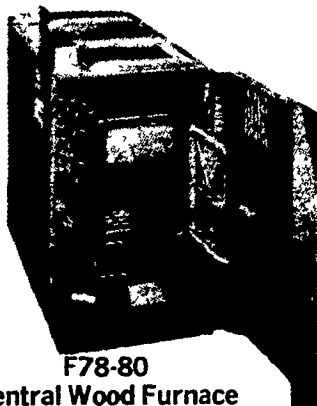
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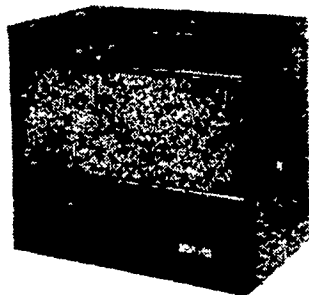


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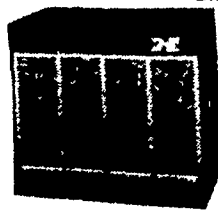


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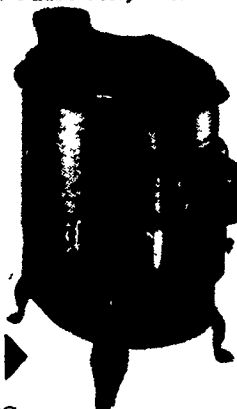
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