

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp

Since we pass but once through this life, I've always embraced the philosophy that we should see and do and learn all that we can on this one-way excursion.

And that's how I wound up in the arcade.

An arcade is home for those sophisticated bleeping, shirring, humming video games that have replaced the old ho-hum pinball machine as a youthful temptation. Heading the pack of computer game favorites is something called "Pac-Man."

I had often heard of this Pac Man character, usually tied in with our children's laments on how they were the lone deprived kids in this entire country lacking the home-computer video games.

But I'd never met him face to face — in fact, ignorant as I was, I had never played any computer game.

So when we recently attended our Holstein convention, with a video arcade located prominently in the hotel lobby, I knew I had to grab this chance. After all, aren't conventions for learning new ideas?

Besides, how could I keep up with my children if I knew nothing of what they were talking about?

The venture turned into a cooperative one.

Financing came from an outside interest. A cooperative bull-stud representative, who overheard me confess my video

wish, and forked over a quarter. (I was to discover later that two quarters are the norm for this machine to even come alive.)

Finally, the moment came when I could steal away to explore this arcade. Not wanting to venture into unknown territory alone, I invited along another adult video novice. And on our way, we rounded up a Holstein staffer for moral support, which turned out to be a crack-shot decision. He was a Pac-Man expert.

After feeding in our two quarters — my partner financed his own way — the TV-type screen lit up, and at last I was eyeballing this famous Pac-Man.

Cute. He's a yellow, round, blob, with a pie-shaped triangle mouth, and runs all over the screen through a computerized maze, gobbling up little dots. Players steer the blob with a sort of gear-shift lever. And scattered through the maze are bigger dots, which, when gobbled by Pac-Man earn the player points.

One catch. While Pac-Man is gobbling his way through the dots, other colored blobs are chasing him. If they gobble the yellow blob, before he gobbles sufficient big dots to keep them at bay, the player is sunk.

I was mostly sunk, at least during the first game when I was soundly clobbered by the opposing team.

With the loan of a second quarter, I turned the tables and won. And quit. Best to stop while on a winning streak.

Besides, I had run out of

quarters and financiers to fund this fun new experience. Even the change-making machine ignored me.

I must be a bad risk.

Potato growers to hold winter meeting

YORK — The York County Potato Growers will hold their annual winter meeting on Monday, March 8 at the Centre — Presbyterian Church in New Park, starting at 10 a.m.

John Thompson from-Shrewsbury, president of the York County Potato Growers, will be chairman of the session. The program will be as follows:

10:00 — Sorayers and Spray Coverage — Donald Daum, Agricultural Engineer-Penn State University;

10:35 — Colorado Potato Beetle and Their Control — Robert Leiby — Lehigh County Extension Agent;

11:15 — Pest Management Program on Potatoes — Zane Smilowitz — Plant Pathologist — Penn State University .

11:45 — Lunch

1:00 — Discussion on programs for the coming year

1:20 — Comments from Chip Company Representatives

1:30 — Proper Methods of Using Pydrin for Colorado Beetle Control Todd Kemmer — Shell Chemical Co.

1:50 — Results of York County Potato Variety Plots — John T. Smith — County Agricultural Agent

2:00 — Manage for Potato Quality — Richard Cole — Potato Specialist — Penn State University

2:30 — Panel Discussion on Growing Norchips. Panel Members: William Warner, R. 3 Felton; Lemar Neuhaus, R. 2 Stewartstown; R. 3, Felton; Alan Eveler

R. 2, Felton. Panel Moderator John T. Smith, County Agri. Agent

3:00 — Adjourn

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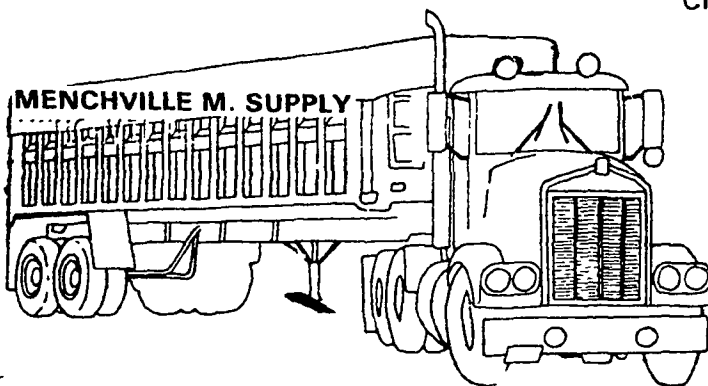
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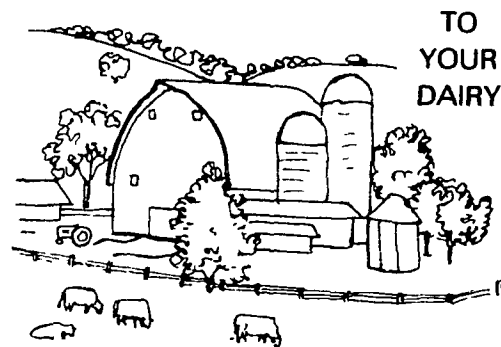
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