

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp

As the dusk silently drapes winter-garbed hillsides, and daylight fades into memory, the hustle and bustle, the frantic rushing that has filled recent days, begins to subside.

It's Christmas Eve. And much of the world will pause to remember, to rejoice, to sing, to pray for peace on earth, goodwill to men.

In our country church, as in

thousands of others across this land, the sanctuary will glow with softly flickering candlelight and the radiant brilliance of red poinsettias.

A manger, filled with straw from the cow barn, cushions, a symbolic baby doll, the focal point of one of the most beautiful of worship services.

And down the aisles processes our own choir of angels.

They range in age and size from the self-conscious, taller, almost-teens on down to a few of the tiniest cherubs, barely past toddling size.

Robed in white, they come, tinsel sparkling from blonde and brunette heads, a few of the halos slipping slightly sideways. We teachers forgot the bobby pins again.

Bringing up the back of the procession are the usually mischievous boys, now tran-

sformed into shepherds. Garbed in borrowed bathrobes, fabric squares framing their fair and freckled faces, they seem so serious in the re-enactment of this drama.

These angles and shepherds surround the two chosen to portray Mary and Joseph, who take their places keeping vigil at the manger, and study the baby whose parents they symbolize.

One smaller angel fidgets, twisting her curls in nervousness, while a shepherd momentarily forgets a song verse as he searches the dimly-lit sea of faces for parents who are fighting to hold back tears of pride.

With a lisp or two, a few slightly off key, voices respond to a final piano cue and begin their last vocal offering of this night: "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed...."

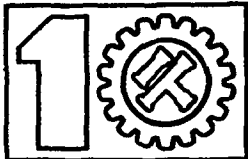
Suddenly, the miracle has happened all over again.

And it comes forth, not in presents nor partying, nor in government edicts nor decrees, but in the simple hope of children gathered around a small manger where a baby lies in the straw.

This is Christmas.

May its peace, its love, its joy, its hope, be yours, always.

Merry Christmas!



DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW



The storm will pass. And thankfully, so will you with a Kubota snowblower.

We have snowblowers that attach to most Kubota diesel tractors, and they are a cinch to operate. They clear snow from driveways, roads or parking lots. Break up and clear heavy drifts. And the large diameter chutes give you excellent control of casting distance.

So next time the forecast calls for snow, relax. It'll blow over. With a little help from Kubota.



We're looking for work.

SEE YOUR LOCAL KUBOTA DEALER:

PENNSYLVANIA

BENEDICT'S FORD TRACTOR
R.D. 2
Wellsboro, PA 16901
717/724-2839

**BERKLEIGH POWER EQUIP.,
CO., INC.**
10 S. 2nd Ave
W. Reading, PA 19611
215/376-6506

NORMAN D. CLARK & SON, INC.
Honey Grove, PA 17035
717/734-3682

GRUMELLI'S FARM SERVICE
R.D. #2, Box 36
Quarryville, PA 17566
717/786-7318

PAUL W. HISTAND CO., INC.
697 N. Main St., Box 795
Doylestown, PA 18901
215/348-9041

KELLER BROS. TRACTOR CO.
R.D. #7, Lebanon, PA 17042
717/949-6501
730 S. Broad St.
Lititz, PA 17543
717/626-2121

MARSHALL MACHINERY, INC.
R.D. #4
Honesdale, PA 18431
717/729-7117

O.C. RICE, INC.
104 N. Main St.,
P.O. Box "C"
Biglerville, PA 17307
717/677-8135

RISHEL'S SALES & SERVICE
R.D. #2, Spring Mills,
PA 16875
814/422-8826
State College, PA 16801
814/238-7788

SEBRING'S POWER HOUSE
North Fifth At Ave. "C"
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
717/421-8980

STRALEY FARM SUPPLY, INC.
1760 East Canal Road
Dover, PA 17315
717/292-4443 or 292-2631

THOMAS POWER EQUIPMENT
So. Penna. Ave., Box 546
Avondale, PA 19311
215/268-2181

TRACTOR PARTS COMPANY
355 Central Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
717/784-0250

NEW JERSEY

MATERIAL HANDLING SYSTEMS
1320 Route 38
Hainesport, NJ 08036
609/267-6100

PONIATOWSKI BROS. EQUIP. CO.
Route 31 & Church Street
Flemington, NJ 08822
201/782-3514

MARYLAND

AG-IND. EQUIPMENT CO., INC.
1207 Telegraph Road
Rising Sun, MD 21911
301/658-5568 & 398-6132
215/869-3542

ARNETT'S GARAGE
Rt. 9, Box 125
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301/733-0515

GEBHART'S SANDBLASTING & RESTORATION INC.

Box 109AA, R.D. 1
Abbottstown, Pa.
17301

717-259-9868

- Water Blasting
- Chemical Cleaning
- Brick & stone Re-pointing & Water-proofing

MEMO

**HAY,
STRAW &
EAR CORN
SALE**

**EVERY
MONDAY
At 11 A.M.**

**NEW HOLLAND SALES
STABLES, INC.**
Phone 717-354-4341
Lloyd H. Kreider,
Auctioneer



May the blessings of the holy season fill you with peace and joy.

**SHOTZBERGER'S
EQUIPMENT**
Elm, PA
717-665-2141