

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



Once again, just a little thing has served to remind me of my own mortality, and the brief fleeting micro-seconds of eternity to which each of us is allotted as a lifetime.

First came the letter. Could it be, really be, that an entire two decades have passed since the farmer and I donned gowns on high school graduation night?

"But I'm not old enough to be attending a 20-year class reunion" was my immediate and unbidden mental argument. A sobering pause focused on the fact that I am indeed of age to be a partner in such a venture.

Even more sobering was the

thought that followed immediately.

A wedding took place several months after that graduation, and

a 20-year class reunion only ushers in a more distant cause for celebration. Before another class graduate, we will have observed the milestone fifth-of-a-century wedding anniversary.

Awesome, as the kids would say. Totally awesome.

Then the incident with the mixer more firmly anchored facing up to the flashing by of this passage of time.

This particular mixer was a wedding gift of dear friends, a most appreciated sturdy appliance that has never failed to whirl into action when the switch was hit.

A few years back, the beater mechanism had acquired some battle scars, when it became mixed up in an encounter with a plastic spatula. Slightly crooked from the fray, it continued in service, with a bit of occasional straightening.

But then the advent of two kitchen helpers, in the form of offspring assigned to unload the dishwasher, came into the picture. Early in the year, one glass mixer bowl departed to crockery heaven.

A second squirmish with a glass jar that attacked from the top shelf of the cupboard recently finished off the second bowl.

The mixer temporarily joined the status of a host of other wedding casseroles, the lovely towels and washcloths have long departed even as dustrags, and the heritage bedspread, blankets and sheets retired to permanent sleep.

But the faithful electrical kitchen servant deserved better. Refurbished with a complete new wardrobe of stainless, unbreakable bowls, and beaters we now anticipate many additional years together, working with our fast-maturing kitchen helpers.

And, hopefully in the distant future, this beloved appliance will continue with us in the company of cookies mixed for a third generation of farm kids.

But the bill lying on the desk bears silent testimony to how times have changed since the mixed joined this household.

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