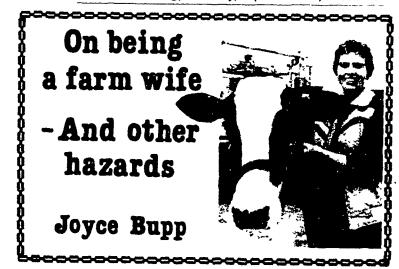


Lancaster Farming, Saturday, September 10, 1983-85



Know what holiday we celebrate tomorrow? Grandparents Day.

In an age of reverence for everything youthful, it's refreshing that we finally publicly salute those precious treasures of childhood, grandparents.

The farmer, with a classic storybook memory of his early visits to grandmothers, still talks about raiding the cookie jar supplies that even today lure other generations of cookie monsters to that same pantry.

It was from his grandfathers' professions that his love for dairy cows first blossomed, then developed into a lifelong love of the milk industry.

From my grandparents, I think has descended a love of growing things, since I can still see both grandmothers' homes blossoming with lush greenery, and my grandfather's memory lingers in every pansy bloom that opens.

If you are blessed with grandparents nearby, as our family has been, you, too, probably feel the joy at having your children absorb those bits and pieces of ancestral lore, tales of relatives and a sense of security and love that is unique between generations of those related to one another.

While parents and children inevitably clash in the major and minor battles that erupt while nourishing a youngster from newborn to adulthood, a grandparent is generally a more nonthreatening part of the family.

Grandparents demand less adherence to rules, less perfection, and have attained the wisdom of experience to know that sometimes play is more wor-

thwhile than work, and simple fun is a gift that they can share

A grandparent, for instance, can usually be conned into letting one stay up well beyond the rules of normal bedtime

Grandparents know that snacks, sweets and various junk foods sometimes frowned upon by mothers, are important in the development of a well-balanced grandchild.

Grandparents are more tolerant of wall-to-wall toys, digging up the garden for fishing worms, jumping on beds, building forts will pillows and blankets and stopping in the middle of a busy day to play Monopoly.

Grandparents will find time in their schedules to read a storybook, rock you to sleep, take a walk, hunt for butterflies or just listen to silly riddles.

Grandparents are fun to take to amusement parks, fairs, and shopping because they also see the value in cotton candy, roller coaster rides and a new baseball glove.

They come in all sizes, shapes and colors, but nearly all models are equipped with soft, secure laps and arms with lots of "hug" in them.

A grandparent may misplace their glasses, but they'll always remember your birthday.

Their eyes have a magical quality of seeing through faces covered with baby food, mudpuddle residue, makeup experiments or over-long hair to see the angel beneath, lit by the faint glow of a haib hovering overhead. Another way to spell grandparents is L - O - V - E.



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