


we're for you



**The Dairy Business**  
By **Newton Bair**



**LEARNING FROM THE SWISS FARMERS**

I'm proud of my Swiss ancestry. Not that there were any real history makers among them that I know of. They were just plain folks, Mennonite farmers who in the early 1700's were invited by William Penn to come to Pennsylvania and help to settle and populate the wilderness of Penn's Woods.

I often wondered what it must have been like to uproot your family from the homeland and move to a wild, and unsettled land across the sea. After visiting a land as beautiful as Switzerland, I am convinced that those emigrants didn't leave because of the mountains, or the land or the lovely forests. They were under persecution because of their Religious beliefs and only sought refuge in a foreign land so that they could be free to worship and to avoid military service. I'm sure that they were haunted by the memories of the beautiful land they would never see again.

Swiss farming is unique. There are fairly large valley farms, cultivated much the same way we do here. Small grains like wheat, barley and oats are common. They air for high yields by controlling diseases and weeds and fertilize heavily with manure and chemical fertilizers. But the striking difference between our farms and the Swiss becomes evident when we visit the Alpine regions of Switzerland.

Our rural tour of Switzerland included a visit to a summer mountain pasture farm, high in the Alps above the Simme valley. It is owned by the Buehler family, who also own land in the valley, where they breed Simmental cattle. The high Alpine pastures are grazed from May to October. The herd is moved on foot up to the highland pastures in spring, with all of the time honored tradition of cowbells, fancy costumes, flowers and yodling!

**FEAST IN STABLE**

We were welcomed with a demonstration of the beautiful tones of the Alphorn, played by a talented Swiss lass who also sang several traditional mountain songs accompanied by her husband who played the accordion and Yodled up a storm. All this while we enjoyed a Swiss mountain feast, served right in the cow stable!

Yes, the stable is the largest room in the building. It was quite handy to the kitchen, where the meal was prepared over an open fire. Crude tables and benches were covered with bright tablecloths, and we sat with our backs to the wooden mangers. The only decorations on the wall were some cowbells and the leather surcingles for milking. A single vacuum line for the milker was installed along one wall.

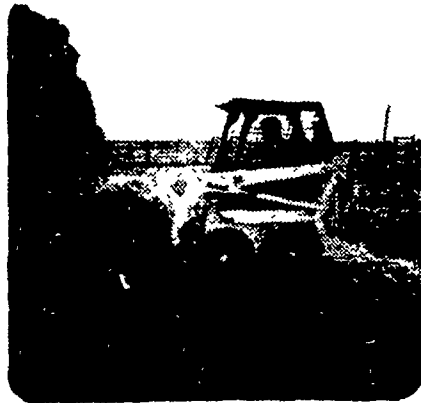
The building was made of hand hewn logs, built by Mr. Buehlers ancestors about 1780 and had never seen any paint or preservative. Apparently the cool mountain air preserves the wood, because it was as sound as the day it was built.

No one even noticed the neat manure pile just outside the stable door — at least not before we were done eating. It was a natural part of the scenery, acceptable to all of us while we enjoyed the generous hospitality of the sincere Swiss mountain folk.

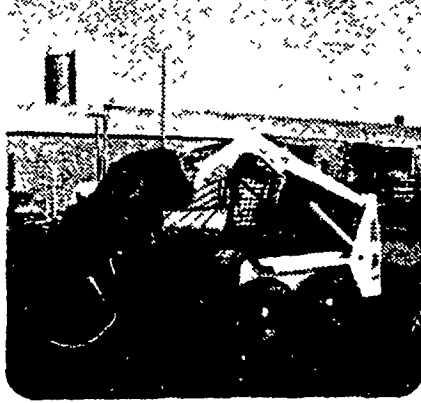
**PLENTY OF CHEESE**

Oh yes, we had soup made with a vegetable puree and flavored with  
(Turn to Page D2)

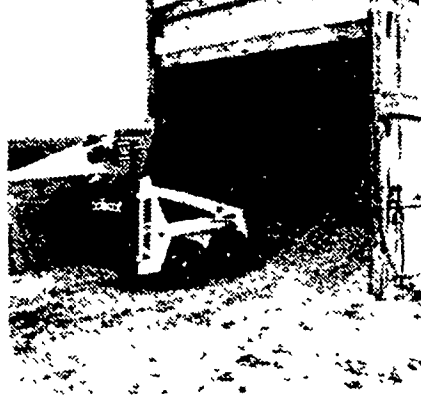
**Brand New 400 SERIES Bobcat**



7:00 am



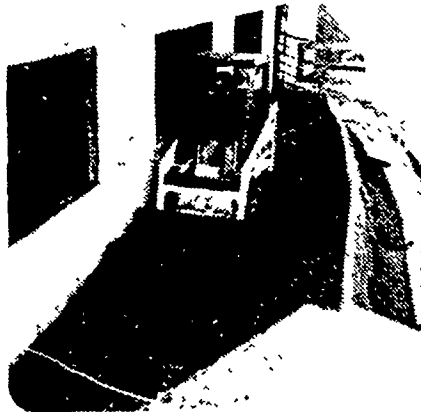
8:35 am



9:27 am



10:17 am



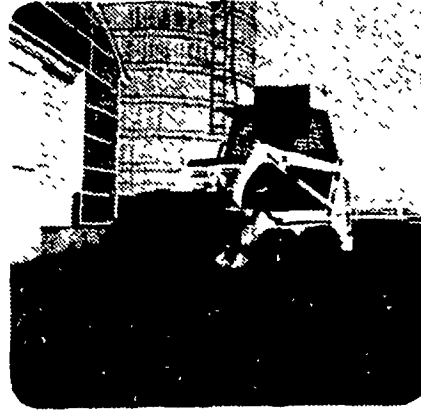
11:02 am



2:42 pm



4:10 pm



4:35 pm



6:19 pm

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