

On being a farm wife - And other hazards Joyce Bupp



Tension hung in the air, so thick you could almost have sliced it like fresh bread.

High-ceilinged, towering-walled rooms within the massive complex where we waited, closed out the sunshine of the bright day just beyond the doors. The oppressive atmosphere of waiting, waiting, waiting, was sporadically rent with sudden explosions of giggling attacks.

Across the hall of the Kentucky Exposition's west wing, just a part of the sprawling livestock show and civic center complex in Louisville, teams of four youths faced each other. Their fingers hovered above buttons, trigger ready, to try to be first to hit the buzzer and earn a chance to an-

swer a question and earn points for their team.

This was the National 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl contest, with fifteen teams battling for the top spot. Questions prodded their knowledge of the broad dairy industry, anything from milk marketing to cattle diseases.

Adults waiting with the York County team, representing Pennsylvania as state winner, were fast becoming as jittery as the kids. Having won their first couple of rounds, earlier calm was disintegrating in the waiting room isolation as the semi-finals drew closer.

Already, during one round, one team member had snapped a lead pencil in two with nervous tension.

Swiping paper from the note-taking tablets, they initiated a picture-drawing event, each member adding some item. Other pieces of lined tablet paper soon sprouted tic-tac-toe contest scribbles and assorted pencil games - anything to have something to do.

When that wore out, which was pretty soon, a spitball appeared. A pair of ballpoints became paddles and the spitball a ping-pong ball in an informal miniature table tennis game across the table.

A silver chewing gum wrapper found recycled used as a miniature paper airplane. While the design and engineering were suitable, the lightweight material prevented the craft from any maneuver save fluttering to the floor on the initial launch.

Then began a joke-telling session.

Chairs scraped across the floor as members of assorted teams sampled the milk punch, walked out to the fountains, to the restrooms, or to the official listing of how teams were being eliminated or moved to new competitors in ensuing rounds.

When the call came for what would be our team's final round, relief was audible. Anything, anything, was preferable to the agony of waiting.

When awards time came, they accepted their ribbons for third in the nation. Others also representing the Keystone state in various events further swelled our commonwealth pride.

Berks Countian Patty Dreisbach, named the new national Jersey queen. York County's Mike Welsh who won the national junior Brown Swiss Show.

And a host of livestock exhibitors who placed either top, or very high, in their respective classes.

It just shows that Pennsylvania agriculture can go anywhere, national or international, and uphold that we're growing quality - both kids and livestock.

We came home Pennsylvania Proud.

Montgomery Co. 4-H'ers Recognized

NORRISTOWN — Montgomery County 4-H leaders and members were honored recently at the County 4-H Achievement Night held at the Holiday Inn, Kulpville. County Commissioners Rita Banning and Alan Myers were present to congratulate the participants and offer words of praise for the outstanding contributions made by leaders and members to the 4-H program. The Outstanding 4-H Boy and Girl for 1983 were recognized by Mrs. Banning. Debbie Fagley, Trappe, accepted her award. Jerry Longworth, Hatfield, was unable to attend because of school commitments.

but his sister, Denise, accepted it on his behalf.

Kitty Kopistecki, Royersford, and Debbie Fagley received the "I Dare You" Award for outstanding 4-H leadership in the county. Commissioner Myers presented the awards to them.

Adult leaders were recognized by Paul Reber, county agent, who presented certificates to them for their commitment to the 4-H program.

4-H teen leaders were recognized by Helaine Brown, 4-H agent. Other 4-H members were recognized for their participation in other county, regional, state and national 4-H programs.



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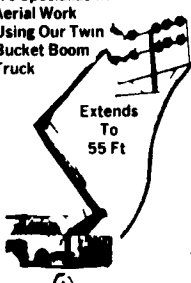
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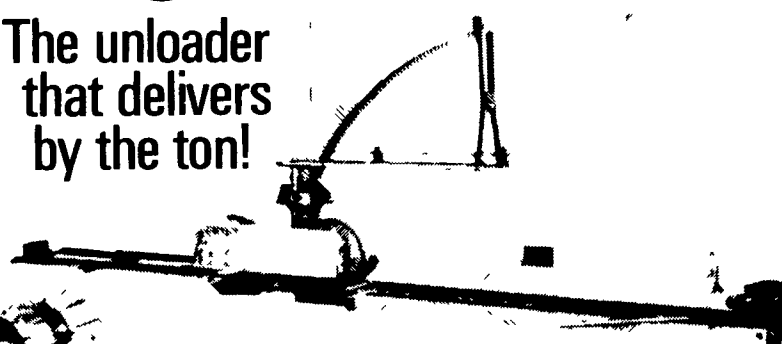
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