

**On being  
a farm wife  
- And other  
hazards  
Joyce Bupp**



The thermometer's red line shrinks these frosty November mornings while the brilliant moon shines, beaconlike, through clear, crisp fall nights.

Winter approaches. And even without the golden carpet of leaves around the house, the haze over the pond at daybreak, or the glitter of ice coating the roadside puddle where the field path leaves the blacktop, we'd know for sure that the cold cometh.

For outside each house door, a creature of stealth and speed awaits, endangering the health and welfare of any human luckless enough to be caught in the annual stampede of cats to the house.

Kid philosophy on this farm is that every cat is a pet, not just to be useful at the barn catching mice and rats, but to be also cuddled, fed with goodies snatched from Mom's kitchen and taught how cozy it can be in the house.

So it is inevitable that with the first evening chill, a mob of cats lines up outside on the porches, waiting for a door to open a crack for a mad dash into the house. Their strategy is that with enough numbers, at least one or two of them will make it.

Fuzzface continues to hold the

championship title for sneaking into the house through an inch of opening. His success is a combination of years of experience and cat caginess. Loss of one of his eyes this summer, through territorial squabbling over the harem, hasn't slowed his speed one millimeter.

Old One Eye does look rather strange at night though. More than once I've come down the road in the car after dark and had the headlights pick up this lone, yellow eye glaring at me. It's kind of eerie.

Size and cunning are a winning sneak-in combination for this year's favorite kitten, Rambler. This pudgy, tiger youngster tumbled out of the nest at one week old to explore and never went back for more than a brief visit for lunch. She spent the rest of her time toddling after the kids and winning their abundant affection.

If waylaid on her trip into the woodstove warmth, Rambler seeks sympathy by hanging from her front legs from the grapevine wreath on the storm door and crying piteously for admittance.

Her way of saying thanks when she does sneak through is to shinny up your jeans pantleg, purring

**NORRISTOWN** — The Montgomery County 4-H Dairy Awards banquet was held recently at Yinglings Restaurant, Boyertown. Clubs participating were the Keystone Dairy Club and the Western Mont-Berks Dairy Club.

Following a slide presentation by Joseph H. Way, Montgomery agricultural agent, entitled, "This is 4-H," the award portion of the program began. The first award was in recognition of the judging team. This year the county was represented by Mike Hetrick, Karen Halteman and Kathleen Kopistecki. Karen Halteman was

presented with the trophy for high team member, having placed 10th in reasons at State 4-H Days.

The Best Animal shown by a First Year Member award went to Andy Halteman, while the Best First Year Showman honors went to Sarah Keener. Robert Waltemeyer garnered the Owner-Breeder Award for his Jersey cow.

Perfect Management scores, based on the record books, were given to Kathleen Kopistecki, Tricia and Susan Curtis and Greg

and Cindy Moser. The top overall scores also merited an award in the senior and junior divisions. Kathleen Kopistecki was the senior winner, and Sarah Keener was the junior winner.

The final presentation of the evening was the recognition of the first year leaders. Clover pins were received by Cindy Waltemeyer, Keystone Club, and Martha Gehringer, Western Mont-Berks Club.

**Country Goodies**

(Continued from Page B2)

operated by a producer of farm commodities.

2. Commodities offered for sale are fresh and of the highest quality.

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Joann said, "The Pennsylvania Farm Market's motto is "certified means satisfied," and that is exactly what we want to do for our customers—satisfy their needs."

Along with the stores unique marketing approach, Joann has added a few special attractions.

Along with being an antique buff, Joann is also a craft nut. She said she decided she could appease her passions for antiques and craft in the store. Consequently, she has turned a corner in her country cupboard into a craft nook. All the crafts have been made by area folks.

Her other special attraction is a

very delicious one - a small bakery section. This bakery area is overflowing with gooey shoofly pies, old-fashioned sugar and molasses cookies.

Not only has the country baked goods been good for Nolt's business, but it has also started the baker in business.

Joann said that she has been selling 35 to 45 pies and 25 to 30 dozen of cookies a week since their grand opening. The baker is a friend and neighbor of the Nolts and Joann added, "She make delicious pies."

"For the first few weeks, she was baking pies every day. However, now we have it down to more of a system," Joann laughed.

And, according to one little girl who was shopping in the store with her mother, "They have the very best eggs and everything else too."

Joann and Gerald said, "It's satisfying to know your customers are really pleased with the products."

wildly. An attempt a couple of nights ago, to perform that trick with the teenager, who was wearing jogging shorts at the time, brought that acrobatic maneuver to a halt.

Then there's Gray, and big blue-gray fellow with a spotless splash of white on his nose, and whiskers that stretch about six inches across. Gray is our resident attack cat.

His method of operation is to follow an innocent victim around, just waiting until the unsuspecting person bends down to pick something up. Then this six-pounds or so of sleekness gracefully leaps to your left shoulder and curls himself lovinly around your neck, purring a welcome into your right ear.

I shudder to think of the first time Gray meets a cat-hater face to face that way.

Anyone need a nice, loveable house cat?

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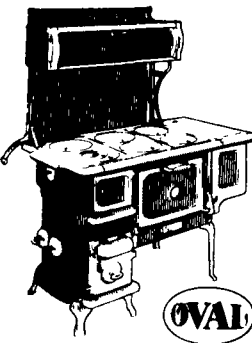
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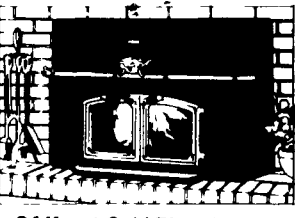
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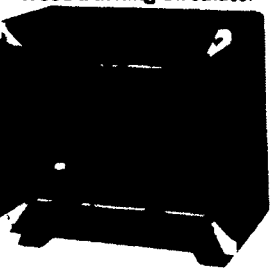
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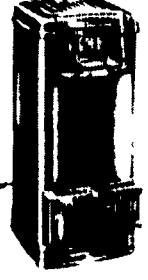
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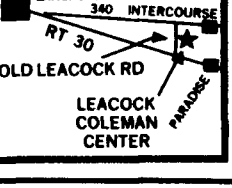
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