

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



Like most things abundant and free, we take it for granted, lost in rushing from here to there in what some cynics label the "rat race."

Still, there are times when the sheer beauty of this land around us veritably reaches out and shakes our complacency. Just perhaps momentarily, our technologically-stunted senses awaken to a renewed appreciation of the poetic loveliness that sometimes is found in the most unexpected of places.

A recent hurried trip across the river to Lancaster County and back, on a drizzly spring afternoon, seemed just filled with mini-scenes to mentally frame and hang in the corners of my memory walls.

On a high, steep, barren bank, along a traffic-clotted, four-lane highway, a burst of brilliant yellow virtually exploded out of the tangle of dead leaves and old weed stems.

Daffodils. Their cheery, golden trumpets defied the obscure background and the miscellaneous litter of modern roadsides.

How did they get there, halfway up the 20-foot or so high bank? A die-hard gardener? Accident of a bird? Or perhaps a PenDot joke — if so, let's have more. Anyway, their rugged determined stand there made me feel good just to see them.

Farther along, a small portion of roadside glowed brilliant pink, an edging of green lawn snuggled around the back with piles of

winter gravel mounded at the feet.

Neighbors on this impersonal stretch of suburban highways — fast food stops, service centers, shopping areas — could not detract from this tiny spot of pink glory. Among the patch of hyacinths, color at their peak, accents of blue and white dotted the carpet of color.

Traffic. How I dislike fighting it. Line up and wait. Stop and creep. Forced meditation of frustration when one wants to just hurry back home to finish other tasks.

But look. Here along this busy highway. A tiny urban park. Rippling through is a stream, swelled with the abundant springs of the season. There it meanders, whispering, through a pair of willows. At water's edge is an intimate hideaway, where slender branches dip down to tease the stream.

A pair of mallards hide here in the eddy, wildlife adapting to this sliver of wilderness among suburbia.

As city fades to countryside, a small pond along the road mirrors the misty sky from a small pasture. Along the pond's grassy bank a few sheep graze, fat and round, their winter coats luxuriant in cream-shaded wool.

And in their midst a tiny lamb wanders, all spindly black legs and dark ears in contrast to the tiny body wrapped in tight curls of infant fleece.

Kraybill Mennonite Auction will feature quilts

MT JOY, Pa. — Spring has come to the Kraybill Mennonite School and with it the excitement of the Seventh Annual Auction.

Busy hands in the homes and churches of patrons and friends are busy making and preparing original handcrafts and food for the Auction on Saturday, May 12. The activities will start early with breakfast from 7 to 9:30 a.m. in the tent. The breakfast menu includes pancakes, sausage and egg omelets.

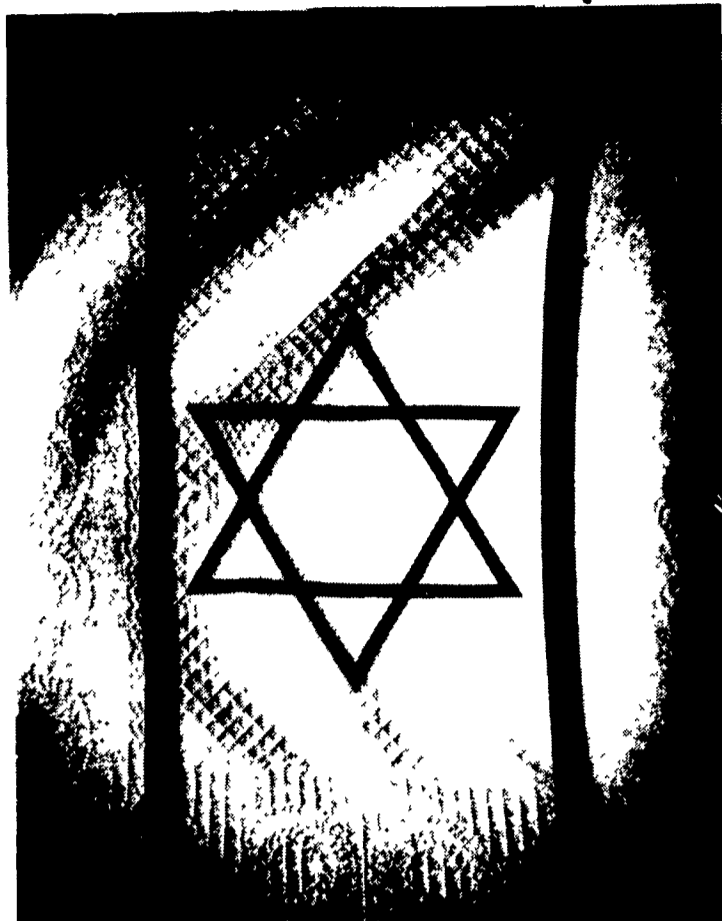
At 9 a.m. the auctioneer begins his day long chant, selling plants, crafts, bark mulch, household goods, furniture, tools, and many other useful items. A highlight of the auction bidding will be the sale of 22 quilts and wall hangings, handmade in the area. Of special interest will be a "Star of David" quilt, which is a new pattern.

Many food stands will serve food for lunch or take-home. Barbecue chicken, pig roast, soup and sandwich, and salad bar are among the choices to enjoy. For something special try the homemade cakes and cookies, and especially the fresh strawberry pies.

To get to the school from Main Street in Mount Joy, turn onto New Haven Street at Rutt's Appliance Store. Immediately over the bridge turn right onto Donegal Springs Road. About one mile out of town turn left onto Kraybill Church Road. Continue on that road until you reach the school.

Commonplace sights. Everyday things, these pieces, these bits of beauty.

How fortunate we are that their cost to us is only to open our eyes, to see, to remember, to say thanks to their creator.



This "Star of David" quilt will be one of several sold at the Kraybill Mennonite Auction on Saturday, May 12.

Lycoming County seeks

Dairy Princess contestants

MUNCY — The Lycoming County Dairy Princess Committee is looking for girls to be contestants in their Dairy Princess Pageant, to be held on Friday, June 22, at the Lycoming Mall, Muncy. The pageant will be the highlight in a four-day schedule of events, beginning on Wednesday evening and continuing thru Saturday with a Celebrity Milking

Contest.

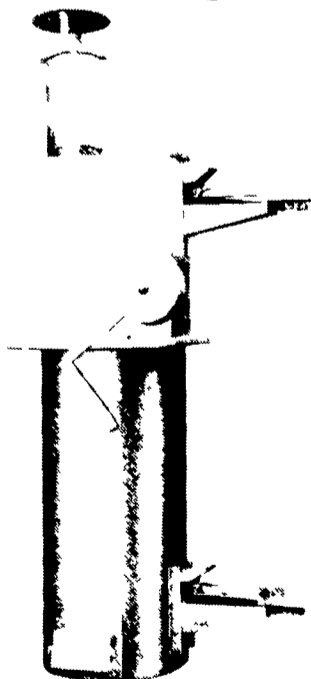
to be eligible to compete, a girl must live in Lycoming County, be the daughter of a dairy farmer or the owner of at least one dairy animal, and must have completed her junior year of high school and not have reached her 22nd birthday by December 31 of the year of the contest.

Anyone interested in entering the contest may contact Helen Barto at 546-6511 or Doris Jarrett at 398-0158.

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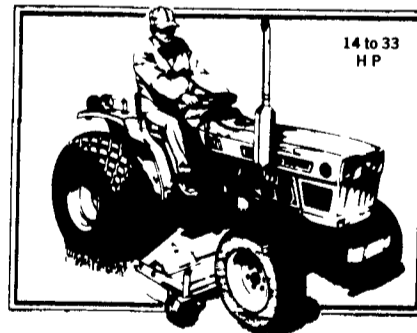
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