

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



It's so simple to give directions in the city.

For instance, go south on Market from Route 000, turn left at the third traffic light, right at the first stop sign and look for house number 12345.

Most of us can handle that.

But head out into the country, and it's a different story. No - or few - traffic lights. No house numbers. We do have stop signs, though.

And while quite a few rural roads now have names, we locals generally pay precious little attention to them. After all, we know where we're going around home.

Since I often have to track down country locations, I've learned the sensibility of writing down specifics.

While I take pride in not getting lost too often, when I did just that a few weeks ago, and went a couple miles beyond my original intended destination, it bugged me to figure out what went wrong as I carefully retraced my tracks.

Let me add, it was a dark and stormy night (with apologies to Snoopy, who uses that line to start the novels he types atop his doghouse). Well, not that dark, but certainly foggy. And, retracing my travels, I discovered that the sign on the road where I was to turn had been bent back at a sharp angle, probably scraped by some truck or hay wagon.

An excusable direction-finding goof, I comforted my ego.

My lessons in country directions have come from a real pro, one who usually issues me instructions on how to find some obscure location along with a request to pick up some part urgently needed

a week before.

I grabbed for paper and pencil as he recently began rattling off directions.

"Aw, you won't need that - this is easy." Sure.

"Just go out Route 30, and turn right at the airport. Keep going until you come to the crossroads at the town and then go straight through." Yep. I can handle that.

"Then, take the gravel alley to the left, between the three car garage and the board fence." Uh, huh.

"Where it looks like the road goes straight through the guy's machine shed, you'll bear to the left." Huh?

"You'd better go about 45. Go 40 and you'll hit every bump - and there's a bad one. If you're going 45, you ought to fly right over the worst."

A little tongue-in-cheek sarcasm in that last one. I think.

Sure enough there was a nasty bump. And another. And another. Plenty in fact. I found 'em all. Doing 35. Even 25 at some spots, since I have an emotional attachment to my car muffler.

Sure enough, there was the shed in the middle of the road, and the town to go straight through at the crossroads.

But suddenly I couldn't remember which way to turn on the gravel road, since one went both ways, with fences and garages. Instinctively I went right - which was wrong - and found a lady smiling quizzically at me from where she stood behind a station wagon in a driveway.

I smiled back and threw it into reverse.

Only one way left - and sure

## Indian IFYE

(Continued from Page B2)

Naveen says he had a clear picture of what to expect in the United States because of the many Americans he has met. "My father was in the Lions Club and we met a lot of people from the United States. Every year a foreign

family comes and stays with us." Naveen, of course, had never met Tom because he had not yet been born when Tom visited India. He has visited relatives and friends in Texas, California and Minnesota, and will visit Washington, D.C. and New York before continuing on a trip that will take him back to Europe before returning to India.

He claims that Santa Barbara is the most beautiful city in the world, and says that Californians are more liberal and wealthy than others. He also said he found that everyone in Texas has a pick-up truck and a horse.

Another observation Naveen made is that cars last longer in India than in this country, because

enough, there was the little machine shop. Right next to the fence. Which had cows on the other side. He forgot to tell me about them.

Go ahead. Laugh at our country directions. I'd rather follow them any day than instructions printed by the government.

people take much better care of them. "They may last 20 to 30 years," he said, "We just keep replacing parts."

Perhaps the most significant observation made by Naveen was a feeling, experienced when he landed in the United States after a visit in Prague and other European capitals. "When I came here I felt really free," he says simply.

For this 20-year-old the trip to the United States and to the Williams farm in Dauphin County is simply part of his six-month adventure before further work on the farm or study. For Tom and Tiz Williams the visit is the second part of an exchange, showing how important bonds can be and how extensive, carrying through generations.

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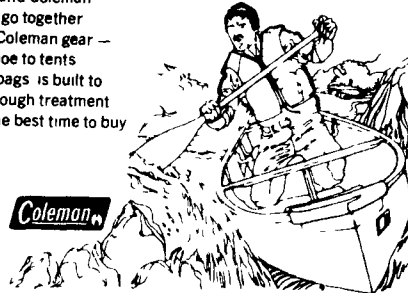
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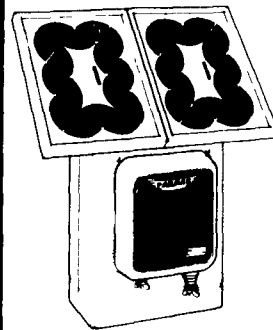
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