

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



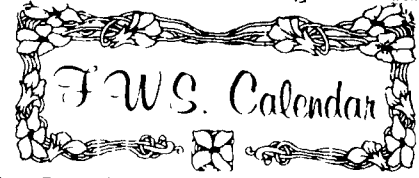
"Ease on down, ease on down the road," sings the cast of *The Wiz*, dancing down the yellow brick road, in the modern musical version of the classic *Wizard of Oz*. Statistics, plus our automobile front-end alignments bills, sum up just how hard it's becoming to "ease on down the road." Easing, slowly, carefully, is about the best way for many heavy trucks hauling commodities from or supplies into farm country, with the deteriorating roads and shaky

bridges of many areas. The rural road system that allows us to go from here to there and back again is truly the lifeline on which this country depends to eat. But the ribbons of blacktop and oil-and-chipped that snake through the countryside bring that inevitable other side of the coin as well. Accessibility, we repeatedly have pounded into our heads, brings trouble. Trouble. Spelled C-R-I-M-E.

Generally on four wheels. This time it's lawn mowers. "Seen a lawnmower running around over your way," queries the voice on the other end, as I answered the telephone one day last week. "Why, have you lost one?" I tease, recognizing the voice as Grandpa's, and coming from just farms away. "Yep. Ours disappeared yesterday." That's the second one in the neighborhood, according to reports. Now, I know well of a recalcitrant lawn mower that regularly refuses to start when it should, but I've never heard of one that drives itself away. Take warning. Lock up your lawn mower. Tie your Doberman to it. Put it in protective custody if you have to go away. Whatever. And if you see someone in the neighborhood loading one up, write down their license number. Play Sherlock Holmes. You can always burn the paper if it's a false alarm. Another "crime" of much lesser proportions was enacted near the house recently, along the rural road that splits our farm.

Dumping. Of some of the worst kind. "Hey Mom, look," come a voice drifting from the backyard. "Kittens." Funny. None of us recognized them. Which barn cat had been holding out on us? A quick head check, and accounting for all know litters, brought us to the sad conclusion. Some irresponsible coward had

dumped off these three small, helpless kittens. Why does that myth persist that farmers can always use more cats? My head knows it's wrong, but my extreme anger argues that this unsolicited donation deserves a reciprocation. Something like a large, fresh, smelly load of manure dumped on the perpetrator's front porch. One good turn deserves another.



Saturday, June 16
Lancaster Society 3 meets at 12:30 p.m. for a visit to Mt. Hope Estate and Winery.
Lancaster Society 18 meets at the First Presbyterian Church, Strasburg, for a workshop by Mildred Kreider.
Lancaster Society 8 entertains Society 2 at Vera Frey's. Rodnie Hershey will give a program on biking from coast to coast.

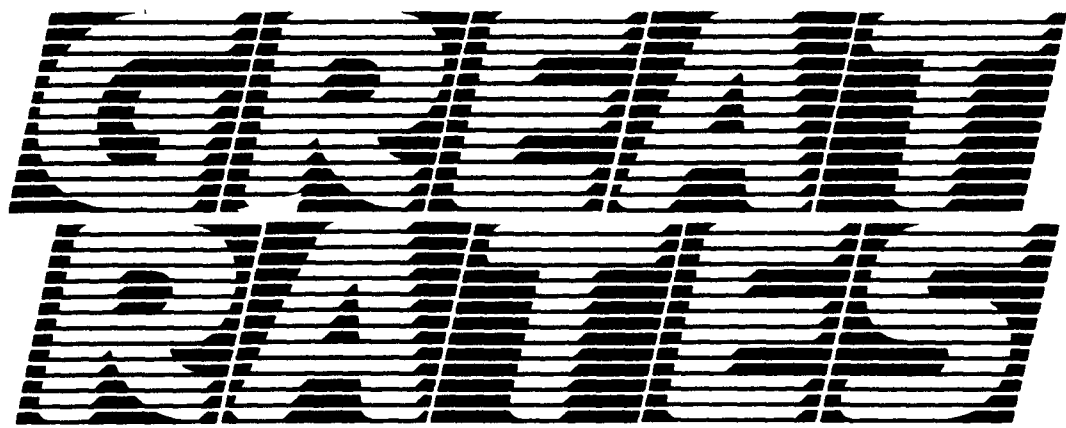
Tuesday, June 19
Lancaster Society 12 meets at 6:30 p.m. for a family picnic at Safe Harbor Park.

Thursday, June 21
Lancaster Society 15 meets for a noon luncheon at the Hoffman building, Quarryville, to entertain Societies 9, 20 and county officers.

Monday, June 18
Lancaster Society 29 meets for a "Party Food Ideas" program by Peggy Moyer.
Lancaster Society 34 meets for a program by Boni Gochenaur.

Friday, June 22
Lancaster Society 4 meets at Mountville Church of the Brethren for a program on "Miracles of Nature" by Carl Nolt.

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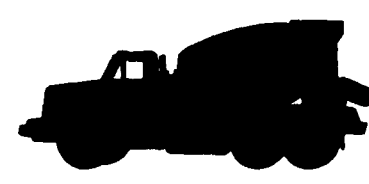
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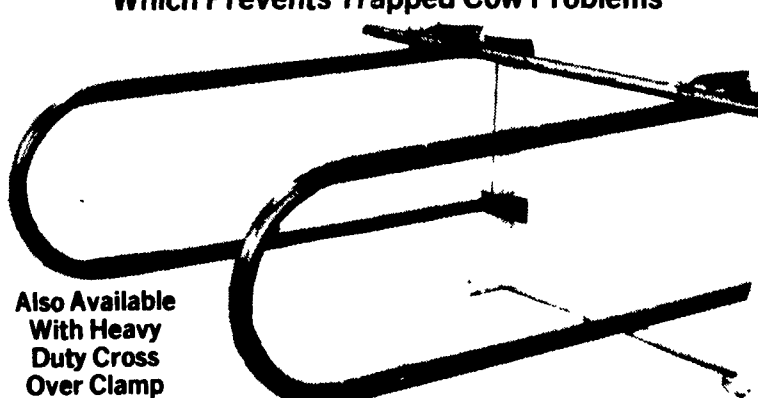
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