

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



Patently, he again shows me the proper motions. "No Mom. Like this." I try, but my efforts fall short of the perfectionist demands in executing the moves, as done by our 12-year-old. "I guess you're just not flexible enough," he sighs. Indeed. Contrary to what he believes, it wasn't really Michael Jackson, but farmers, who originated America's current dance rage based on erratic moves and sudden, jerking motions. I'm talking moonwalking and poppin' here, folks. You know, like "breakin'." You don't believe that break

dancing really began out here on the nation's farms? Think about it. Take moon walking, for instance. That smooth, seemingly effortless backwards gliding motion of the feet wasn't invented for the sole purpose of filming TV commercials. Heck, no. Actually, the unique retreating dance step first saw light of day one morning in the mountainous upstate, when a local farm wife there meandered out to pick blackberries and nearly stumbled over this big ole' four-foot rattlesnake just snoozing away in the sun.

signals were the only way to convey information over the diesel's whine and wifely sobbing. Similar random erratic jerking motions find frequent practice around farms. I'm perfecting one right now, called the halt and leap, useful at night for avoiding falling into the hole in the blacktop, dug up when a band of maurauding rats blockaded a drain pipe with rip-rap. Similar in execution is the abrupt stop-and-turn movement that comes into play when a nail on the corner of a gate snags your sweatshirt, as you try to run interference against an offensive lineup of 4-H heifers scrambling for an alfalfa field goal.

Last, but not least, is my personal favorite, the flamboyant, challenging - and yes, dangerous - shoulder spins. While pieces of linoleum are favored by most breakdancers, we prefer the blacktopped slope to the milkhouse, polished to a sheen with an invisible sheet of ice lovingly laid down by a bone-chilling January fog. This move is best launched from a standing position, wearing well-worn duck shoes with rubber tread bottoms best resembling "bald" tires. While exhilarating, it leaves old inflexibles - we won't mention any names - with black and blue blotches. Or worse. And that, in case you haven't figured it out yet, is why it's called "break" dancing.

It was my brother who devised the breakdance arm movement which begins with a dip of the fingers on one hand, continuing with a wavelike motion through that arm, and on out the other, disappearing at the end of the opposite hand.

He perfected the move at about age eight, when a certain wise-guy sister suggested he check to see if a neighborhood electric fence really was on. It was - and he took his curtain call bows from the seat of his pants in the middle of a pasture, from the volt jolt, while screaming death threats to a certain older sibling rolling on the ground with laughter.

Other break dance jerking hand movements likewise originated with farmers, trying to give their reluctant wives instructions on towing machinery. These hand

## York 4-H cookie sale begins

**YORK** — The Annual York County 4-H Cookie Sale is now in progress. Five varieties of cookies are available and sell for \$1.50 per package. The varieties are: Chocolate Covered mint patties, Coconut Creme Sandwiches, Granola Creme Sandwiches, Chocolate covered peanut butter wafers, Chocolate covered marshmallow cream.

Cookies can be obtained from 4-H members or by calling the 4-H office at the Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension Service, 757-9657.

The sale ends Oct. 24, so call now. Profits from the sale are used to maintain and make improvements at the York County 4-H Center near Bair.

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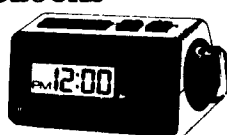
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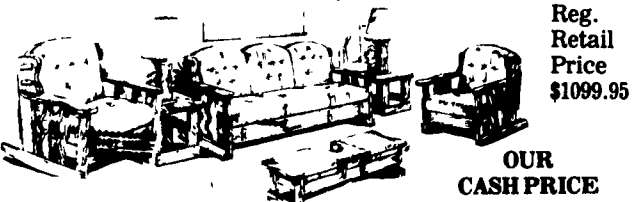


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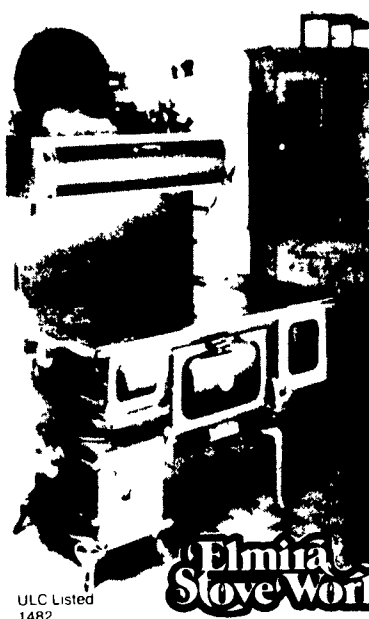
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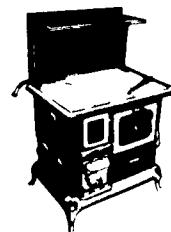
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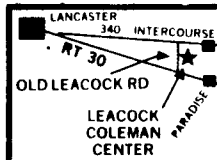
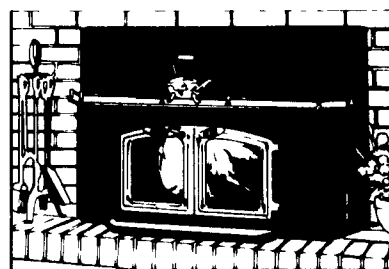
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