

# On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



An assorted jumble of candy papers litters the dressers in one upstairs bedroom, strikingly similar to the clutter strewn across the floor. This fallout is the residue of our youngest's - to his dismay - last trick-or-treat haul of his childhood.

In another bedroom nearby, the bright reds and greens of holiday gift wrap and cards hint of the rapidly impending season of giving.

Stuck here, in the no-man's-land between the increasingly, uneasy "gimme, gimme" of Halloween, gunning preparations for the opening day of deer season, and the "buy, buy, buy" of Christmas, it would be easy to forget Thanksgiving.

Frankly, Thanksgiving deserves more attention than it generally gets.

There are so very many people, and such a list of things for which we can be thankful, that most of us just don't quite know where to begin. But one thing in particular comes to mind this year.

I'm thankful for corn.

Corn. Such a simple, little golden seed. Planted in spring, it swells,

pokes tiny brave shoots through warming soil, and with a little luck, grows like wildfire over the next several weeks.

Towering many times the seed's size, corn plantings wave green swells of motion over the July rural landscapes, and crackle with vigor on hot, humid August evenings. Pale tassels decorate the tops and the air grows fragrant with the scent of pollen. Ears shoot from thick stalks, swell fat, and grow long.

As nights shorten, the cornfields almost imperceptibly begin fading from vibrant greens to a faded, aging hue. Ears, sag with maturing weight, and drying silks turn a rich shade of brown. Flashes of golden color peek from the ends of ears, as the husks dry and shrink away to expose the richness within.

Corn. A miracle of kernel next to kernel, lined neatly in straight rows, side by side, marching on around a red cob center. Millions of kernels per acre, millions of ears in rows that climb curving hills, gracefully slip down the other side and melt in the distance into a fringed, blurred sea of crispy tan.

Corn. It feeds cattle, and becomes milk and meat. Hogs convert it to tasty ham and chops, and sheep transform it into a warm, resilient fiber. Chickens grow sleek and plump with eggs for our benefit. Turkeys peck at ground kernels and metamorphose into birds so plump with juicy meat that most families despair of finishing the wealth in even several sittings.

Last year, though, there was so little corn. Like all simple, normally abundant blessings, we took it for granted that this harvest, year after year, would always be there to fuel our cattle, feed ourselves and forge the economy ahead.

And the ensuing year has been sparse, agonizingly so for too many who may never grow corn again in the wake of the drought, or who will continue paying for the scarcity through seasons to come - hopefully - of abundance.

Corn. How reassuring to hear it rattling its way up silo blower pipes, and watch a stream of yellow pour from combine augers into trucks and bins.

On that first Thanksgiving, pilgrims paused to give thanks after they, too, had endured a sparse, lean winter of near-starvation, far greater privations than we can ever imagine. History relates that among their guests were Indians, the native Americans who taught our forefathers to grow.....corn.

That memory seems especially appropriate as we pause to offer prayerful Thanks this year.

## Chester Co. 4-H equestrians

(Continued from Page B2)

"Miraska," the 5-year-old Arabian that is her 4-H project. Miraska belongs to the McCuens, but Beth does most of the work involved in caring for her. Someday, Beth said, she hopes to have her own horse.

Beth says the drill team "doesn't take that much time," but adds, "sometimes it can be a lot of work."

Preparing for shows and parades constitutes a great deal of that work. In addition to the hours of practice involved in drill team, a great deal of grooming is needed to prepare for an event. Jennifer Esposito says that when preparing for an event, she must bath and brush her horse, paint his hooves, and clean her tack and boots.

But all the work doesn't keep Jennifer and Beth from quipping, "It's fun."

The team members aren't the only ones who reap rewards from the drill team. Leaders Linda Weigel, Charlotte Nicotera and

Ann Drumheller all say they are amply rewarded for their volunteer hours.

For Drumheller, a great performance after a month of hard work, is payment enough. "That makes up for everything," she says.

Weigel also enjoys seeing the smartly uniformed team on their mounts. She says she gets goose bumps when she sees them from across the field. "These girls have made us very, very proud."

Seeing teens participate in a worthwhile program and devote their time to doing something positive, is Nicotera's reward. "When something nice and right happens to them, it's good to recognize them."

If all goes as planned and the 4-H equestrians receive an invitation to participate in the inaugural parade, the team should get their share of recognition. The ambitious group has already set another goal for themselves - to ride in the Rose Bowl parade.



### GOLDEN BARREL PRODUCTS

#### Household Molasses, Syrup And Edible Oil

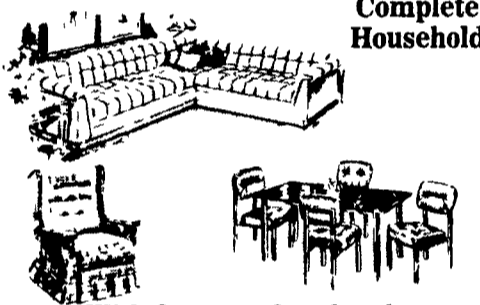
- ★ BAKING MOLASSES
- ★ BARBADOS MOLASSES
- ★ BLACK STRAP MOLASSES
- ★ PANCAKE SYRUP
- ★ CORN SYRUP
- ★ SORGHUM SYRUP
- ★ TABLE SYRUP
- ★ HONEY
- ★ COCONUT OIL
- ★ CORN OIL
- ★ SOY BEAN OIL
- ★ PEANUT OIL
- ★ SHOO-FLY PIE MIX

If your local store does not have it, contact:

### GOOD FOOD INC.

(Food Division Of Zook Molasses Co.)  
West Main St., Box 160  
Honey Brook, PA 19344  
Phone: 215-273-3776 or 717-393-3987  
Call toll free in PA: 800-662-7464

### NEW & USED FURNITURE



Complete Household

With Our Low Overhead We Sell Quality Furniture At Reasonable Prices

### MOSES P. FISHER

RD 1 Gap, PA  
2 mi. north of Rt. 30 on Rt. 10  
HOURS: Mon. thru Sat. 8 AM to 8 PM

## LOSE WEIGHT NOW!

Fantastic Natural Program With Herbs

GOD said "I have given you every herb - to you it shall be for meat."  
Gen. 1:29

GUARANTEED YOU LOSE UP TO 10-29 LBS. EXCESS WEIGHT FIRST 30 DAYS OR YOUR \$29.95 IS REFUNDED

Discover Possibility of More Energy, Better Health, Longer Life & Save Money

- SAFE - No drugs, man made chemicals or preservatives.
- SIMPLE - No weighing or measuring your food.
- EASY - No exercise required.
- LOW COST - Supplies 2 meals a day, cuts food bills in half.

To order, send \$32.70 (\$29.95 + \$2.75 delivery charge)

For More Information Contact **IVAN & ESTHER MARTIN**  
522 Prescott Rd., Lebanon, PA 17042 (717) 866-4928 or 866-4555

Copyrighted Ivan Martin 1984 **Sales Opportunities Available**

## ZION DENTURE CENTER

(Located at the Y in Zion, Pa., Centre County)

- Premium ..... \$225 per denture (Charactized Bioblend)
- Economy ..... \$175 per denture

Vern Shipman C.T.D.  
Jerry Navratil D.D.S.  
Dentures Repaired While You Wait

In Appreciation of the Dedicated Farming Community and Its Struggle To Succeed We Are Offering The Following Special.

**Special 10% DISCOUNT**  
During November and December  
With This Ad

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT  
814/383-2631  
OFFICE HOURS:  
Mon.-Tues. 9-5; Wed. 1-5; Thurs.-Fri. 9-5

### An Oasis of Hope East Drumore Family Health Center

R.D. 2, Quarryville, PA 17566

The doctors and staff of East Drumore Family Health Center are trained in preventive medicine and practice the holistic method, treating the whole person, not just the illness. Family medicine is the mainstay of the center but our doctors also have specialty training in surgery, cancer treatment, cardiovascular disease, nutritional assessment and support, arthritic conditions, hair analysis, EKG interpretation. The center is set up under the direction of Dr. Ranulfo Sanchez, Chief of Staff at American International Hospital in Zion, Illinois. Dr. Sanchez is himself in the clinic two days every week. Dr. Alfonso Mellijor, surgical oncologist at American International Hospital, is also available as a consultant. Both doctors have solid experience in treating degenerative disease. Let us provide health care for your family.

Directions: Follow 222 S. 5 miles south of Quarryville, make left on Cedar Hill Rd. (222 makes a sharp bend to the right at this point).

Office Hours: Mon. 9-4; Tues. 12 Noon - 8; Wed. 9-5; Thurs. 12 Noon - 8; Fri. 9-3; Sat. 9-12 Noon

**PHONE (717) 786-1314**  
Reasonable Rates