

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



Look out. Temptation is hammering away at the door again. Now, understand, there aren't all that many material things that tempt me any longer. Big cars use too much gas and fancy-dancy clothes are hardly fitting for feeding calves. Boats have to be scraped and painted every other month and the only fur I really care to have draped around my shoulders belongs to the Christmas-ball loving house kitten. Then those doggone seed

catalogs start rolling in. And set against the background of snow layered with ice and ten-degree afternoons, all my anti-temptation will power turns to so much mush. Ah. Those flawless photos of dewkissed red tomatoes, crispy, pink melon flesh, crunchy lettuce and sweet corn dripping with butter. To say nothing of balloon bouquets of zinnias, pansy faces smiling winsomely from a centerfold and beds brilliant with fat red geranium blooms.

All brought to you direct from the magical never-never land of the seed catalog: never a slug hole in the cabbage; never a leaf coated with fuzzy gray mildew; and hail never hammering the hollyhocks.

What really fascinates me in today's seed catalogs, virtual shopping "malls" for the novice as well as the serious gardener, are the pages and pages of gardening gadgets and gimmickery.

How about an inflatable owl or scarecrow or snake to startle the starlings out of your strawberries. No guarantees, though, that they'll work on the flock of barnyard bantams.

Or some beeswax creme for softening gardener's hands? A popcorn popper, cement mixer or knee kneeling pads? Or something called a Hooker Hanger for displaying your prized hanging baskets?

A couple of years ago, seed tapes brought us perfectly spaced seeds, saving the need to thin fledgling carrots and baby beets. Now, one catalog has introduced something called Plantettes: embryonic plants already germinated and shipped in watertight capsules.

Of zero interest to me are the ads for dried cow manure or praying mantis cases. Both already find their way-free-into this household. The manure arrives daily (and not always dried) on a score of boots, and our Christmas greens came bearing a potential praying mantis invasion.

I might be more interested in the offering by one catalog of coloring books featuring birds, cactus, houseplants, herbs and similar topics. They're tempting to those of us who never outgrew our "coloring" stages.

And one gadget I heartily recommended if you're into big

batches of canning tomatoes is the Victorio strainer. It's a winner not only because it makes pureeing large batches of tomatoes, applesauce, etc., easier, but the teenagers seem to think it's a toy and actually fight over turning the handle. That alone makes it worth its weight in hybrid seeds.

Still, nothing is perfect and reality strikes even in seed catalogs.

A glowing description of one particular seed item ended with this rather terse comment: crop failure.

Ge. Seed catalogs are human, too.

**Equine scholarship available
in Montgomery Co.**

CREAMERY - The Montgomery County Equine Council announces the availability of the Tom Campbell Memorial Scholarship to a deserving youth between the ages of 12 to 20 who

resides in Montgomery County. The scholarship has been set up to honor Tom Campbell, a former member of the Equine Council Board, a long-time horse enthusiast and a member of the 4-H Advisory Board.

Tom always liked to work with youth who were interested in horses. He tried to provide opportunities for youth to better themselves as riders, horsemen and women and as teen leaders. To recognize this interest, the Equine Council is offering an annual scholarship of \$200 in Tom's memory.

The scholarship is to be awarded to a young horse enthusiast with a special financial need, be it for college, horsemasters courses, veterinary fees, lessons or anything of a similar nature dealing with horses.

An official application form must be obtained from Chris Ludt, 111 Mine Run Road, Schwenksville, Pa. 19473 or the 4-H Office at Box 20, 1015 Route 113, Creamery, Pa. 19430 (489-4315). Completed forms must be returned to Ms. Ludt by February 4, 1986.

After careful review of the applications, the Equine Council will select those to be interviewed. The winner will be announced and the scholarship presented at the spring annual meeting of the Equine Council.



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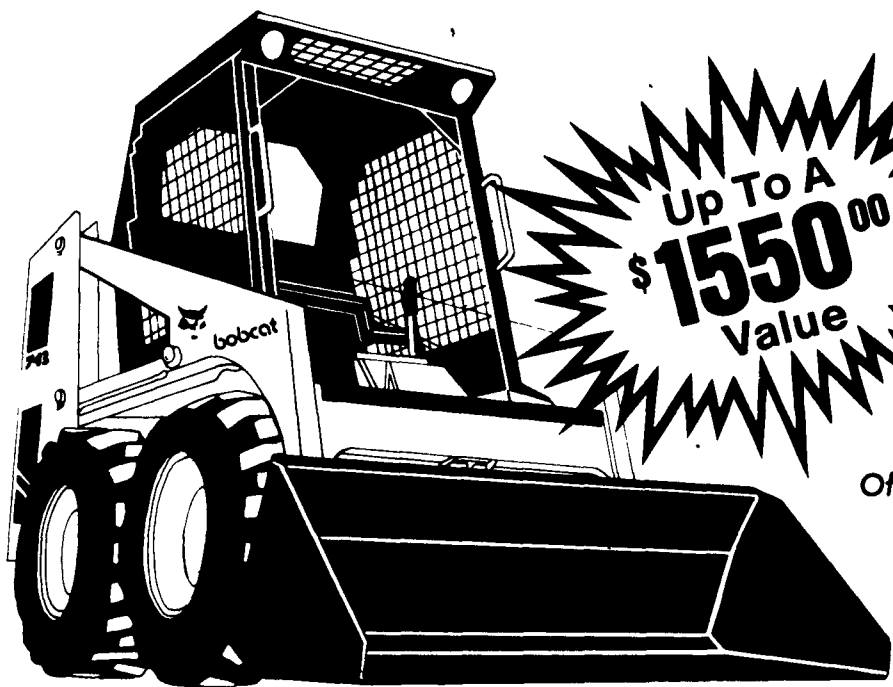
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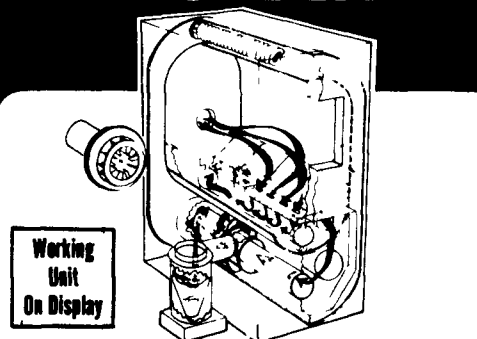
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