

# On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



of this giant envelope were a few dozen bright, smiling faces. Stickers. Round stickers in red, green, yellow, blue. Stickers with wide-eyed faces, toothy grins, smug countenances and winking eyes. Made you feel good just to look at them.

The stickers stayed. The advertising for a children's magazine which was to greatly improve our offspring's lives was pitched. After all, our offspring are into hunting, running, cow and horse magazines.

But we argued over who would get to keep the stickers.

With the same shipment of goodies came an offer for me to attend a "minute management" seminar.

Goodness knows I could use some help in learning to manage. The minute that most needs management is the one in which everyone sweeps into the house before supper, bringing mud, manure, hay and straw, and undoes all the cleaning it took hours

to do.

The real winner of the week, though, was the envelope that fell out of the mail stack with this message in big letters across the front: "The more wrinkles she gets the more beautiful she becomes."

Convinced that these greetings — at least the part about the wrinkles — was solely directed at yours truly, our son slashed the envelope and dumped out the contents. Which included a picture of a stuffed dog, related printed sales pitch of how stuffed, wrinkly puppies are a perfect gift and a headline promoting how "every wrinkle made her more desirable."

There are far more stuffed animals around here now than we need. In fact, there are usually two or three of them trying to run through the basement door whenever someone goes in or out.

I tossed the promo literature — but considered developing the headline into a rally song for those of us finding more and more wrinkles glaring back at us from

the harsh reality of the mirror.

Even the telephone joins the mailman in bringing surprises to make our lives more carefree and at ease.

Consider the extreme luck — if you will — of the farmer last week. He won a burial plot. Ungrateful recipient that he was, he turned down the opportunity to have the deed presented in person at our front door.

After all, there was no guarantee that, if he tried it and didn't like it, he could never get it back and get a new location.

We surely sleep better at night knowing that so many concerned firms out there in big business land spend so much time, effort and money sticking their advertising noses into literally every facet of our personal lives.

If there were some way to redirect all that energy into such causes as pollution or hunger or world peace, we just might accomplish something worthwhile and lasting on this planet.

## Montgomery County Honors 4-H Dairy Members



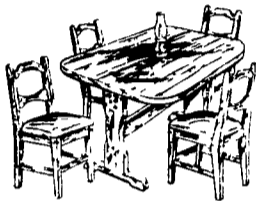
Receiving recognition at the recent Montgomery County 4-H Dairy Awards Banquet were: front row left, Seth Wolfgang, first year member award; and Danielle Breaux, high junior project score award. Back row left, Greg Moser, owner-breeder award; and Tricia Curtis, high senior project score award.

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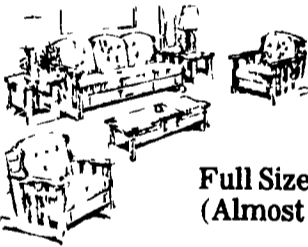
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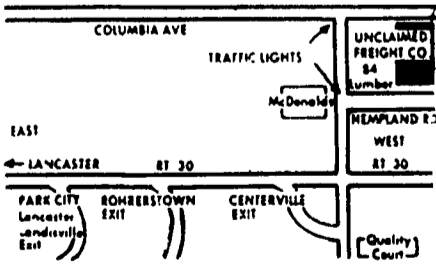
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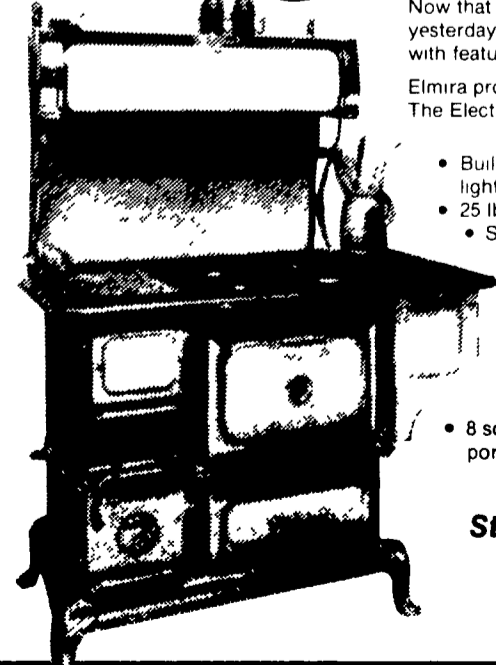
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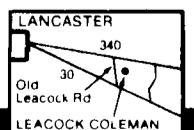


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