

Thelma White

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chests of drawers and chairs and she recently began constructing frames for paintings they purchase.

Since Thelma and Frank enjoy homemade bread, Thelma has found a unique way of working it into her schedule while she's in the fields.

"I mix the bread and then stop to mix it down and then I stop to bake it," she explains.

From old military vehicles to old small kitchen utensils, collecting things is a hobby of Thelma's. For the past eight years the Whites have belonged to the Military Vehicles Collectors Club and presently have in their collection six antique and classic vehicles including three jeeps, one truck, one weasel, and one track vehicle. In addition they have three unrestored vehicles they work on from time to time. Their interest in collecting the vehicles stems in part from the fact that Frank is a Korean war veteran.

Thelma says she enjoys driving the ambulance jeep in local parades and as the only female member of the club, has made parade banners and helped with food for their gatherings. Sometimes, the old military vehicles come in handy, Thelma reports, such as this winter when a deep snow brought traffic to a virtual halt. Thelma merely hopped in one of the vehicles and

went to a nearby store for milk.

Although she says she's a bit rusty now, Thelma reports she has removed engines from the jeeps and replaced them with others.

The aspect of field work she enjoys most, according to Thelma, is "finishing a field, whether it's discing or harvesting, because sometimes the weather interferes." It's the grease and grime associated with farming that she says she dislikes most.

But, she reports, her favorite activity is walking or driving the jeep through the woods to look for wildlife. She keeps a pair of field glasses with her in the cab of her tractor at all times.

Recently, while in the fields Thelma witnessed a rare sight. Looking across to the mountains, she noticed a small yellow cloud hovering over the trees originating from what looked like an explosion. The phenomenon repeated itself several times until much of the mountain was under a yellow cloud. Consulting with Frank later, Thelma learned she had witnessed "pollen firing" which may occur in the forests in springtime when conditions are just right.

It is for reasons such as the above that Thelma shrugs off an occasional remark made to the effect that her "dietician skills are going to waste."

"I don't want to be cooped up in a restaurant," she says. "I want to be outdoors doing plant work or working with machinery and feeling the accomplishment... and not stuck on an assembly line job."



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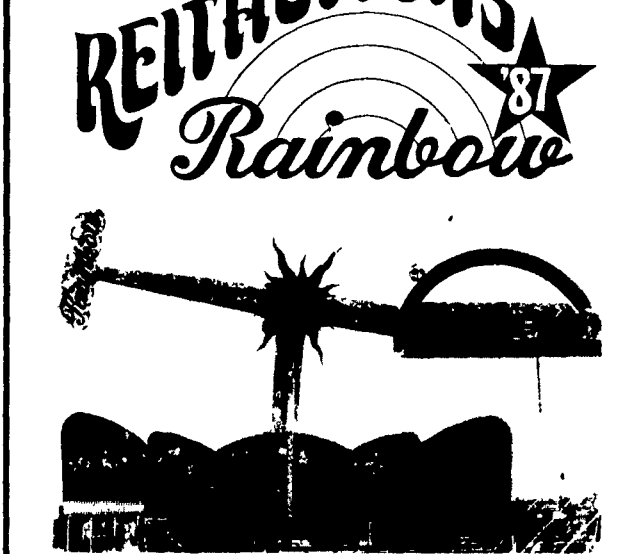
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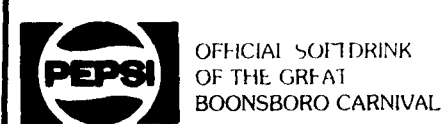
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