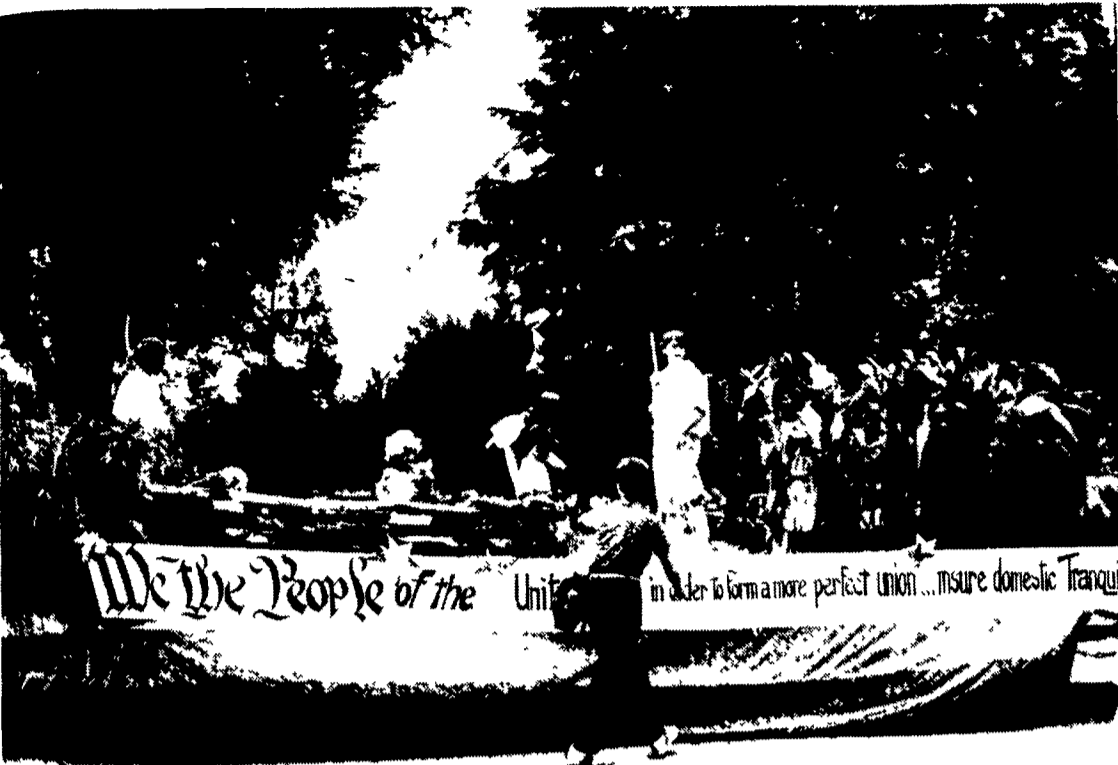


This Little Pig Went To Washington



"The American Farmer" July 4, 1987, National Independence Day, Washington D.C. Left to right: Gabriel Reilly, Amy Lager, Shelley Madsen, Kersten Madsen, David Lechluder, Carolyn Lechluder (walking), Robert Kucklewicz, Christine Reilly.

Carolyn Lechluder knows just what to do for a hot pig — take him for a ride in an air-conditioned car and turn up the stereo!

On the 4th of July Mrs. Lechluder and her pig went to Washington to celebrate farming in the National Independence Day Parade and Festival. The Montgomery County Farm Bureau and the Maryland Earm Bureau co-sponsored a float and titled it, "The American Farmer."

"We wanted to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Constitution," said Lechluder, "as well as the fact that the men who created it were, for the most part, farmers."

With this theme in mind, Lechluder and her committee, Barbara Anne Stiles, Michelle Reilly, Diana Lee Patton and Margaret Coleman, made colonial costumes for the seven children who rode the float and the two drivers who managed the horses that pulled it. Gabriel Reilly wielded the mean-looking antique sythe with cradle loaded for the occasion by Stanley Stabler. Amy Lager and Shelly Madsen sat within the chestnut worm fence and tended the lives-

tock — a lamb and the pig. The Pattons' turf farm donated the green "pasture". Kersten Madsen was the "mother" and looked lovely in her apron and bonnet. Three-year-old David Lechluder carried the water bucket. Robert Kucklewicz used the Stiles' antique wooden hay rake to good advantage and Christine Reilly hoed the corn which was as high as an elephant's eye. She had to part the lush green stalks to be seen; Mrs. Stiles had nurtured it to perfection. Mrs. Reilly and her children painted the signs.

The lamb stood by sheepishly. But the pig squealed, causing laughter from the crowd and concern from Mrs. Lechluder and her grandson on the float. The day was hot and humid as the parade ended and she picked up the little pink pig and lifted him into his cage in the back of her car. "I turned the air-conditioning on high and the radio to something soothing," she said, "and the pig went right to sleep. And snored all the way home." Back in Laytonsville he and David are running about, happily dreaming of red, white and blue flags and the applause of crowds.

The Nation's Capitol was perfect for our country's birthday and American farmers from San Francisco to Easton were proudly represented in the national parade. Lechluder and the American Farmer float committee wrote this description to be read as the waving grain, green corn, big horses and beautiful children wafted past the reviewing stand: *We the People* were mostly farmers. Here the American Farmer float, sponsored by the Montgomery County Farm Bureau and the Maryland Farm Bureau, commemorates the Bicentennial of the Constitution by depicting the farm family of 1787. They live in a log house and the entire family works hard to provide food.

Today's farm family has pretty much the same values as did the authors of the Constitution. They are independent thinkers with a firm belief in God, the family and education. Cohesiveness is reinforced as everyone works and everyone benefits. The farm with its green pastures and still waters remains the place most Americans would like to live.

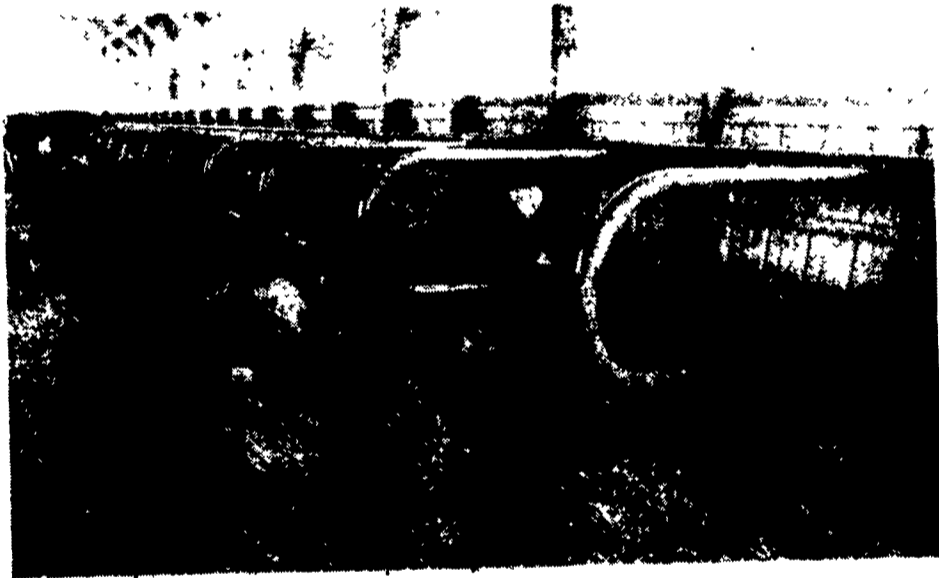
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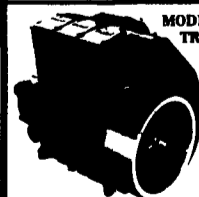


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