

# Kid's Korner

MR. PENNSYLVANIA FARMER CUTS AND STORES HAY IN THE SILO TO FEED HIS CATTLE.

## Readers Write

Hi! My name is Ellen Brubaker. I am 14 years-old. There are 10 children in our family: Pauline, 19; Mark, 17; Florence, 15; Ellen, 14; Martha, 11; Steven, 9; Marion, 7; Norman, 5; Laura, 4; David, 2; Dad (Walter), 33; and Mom (Vera), 32.

We live on a farm. We have 2 cows, 1 calf, 3 horses, 20 big pigs, 10 baby pigs about 30 steers, 1 dog, 10 cats, 2 barns and 1 house. We have a pond. We go swimming, skating and fishing. My sister Pauline is a teacher in New York. My other sister went to visit her. I am in 8th grade. I will be out of school next year. My mom was filling the wash machine with hot water, the hose busted and the water hit her. She burned her hand and down the front of her body. For awhile, she did not help much and did not go away.

We do not have home work unless we are not done with our work for the next day because we have to help with the chores. I milk the cows.

We go to a one room school. We go to school with the school bus. We drive a horse and buggy. We do not have a TV or a radio, but we have a telephone. We use tractors in the fields. We have a big farm, 160 acres with a lot of woods. My dad is putting in a new bathroom.

We have 36 pupils in school. One day we took our lunches to school, but we did not pack them. When lunchtime came, we put up our hands and said our lunch boxes are empty. The teacher sure was suprised. Then, one of the school parents brought our lunches to school. Our teacher's name is Esther Mae Hoover. I like school.

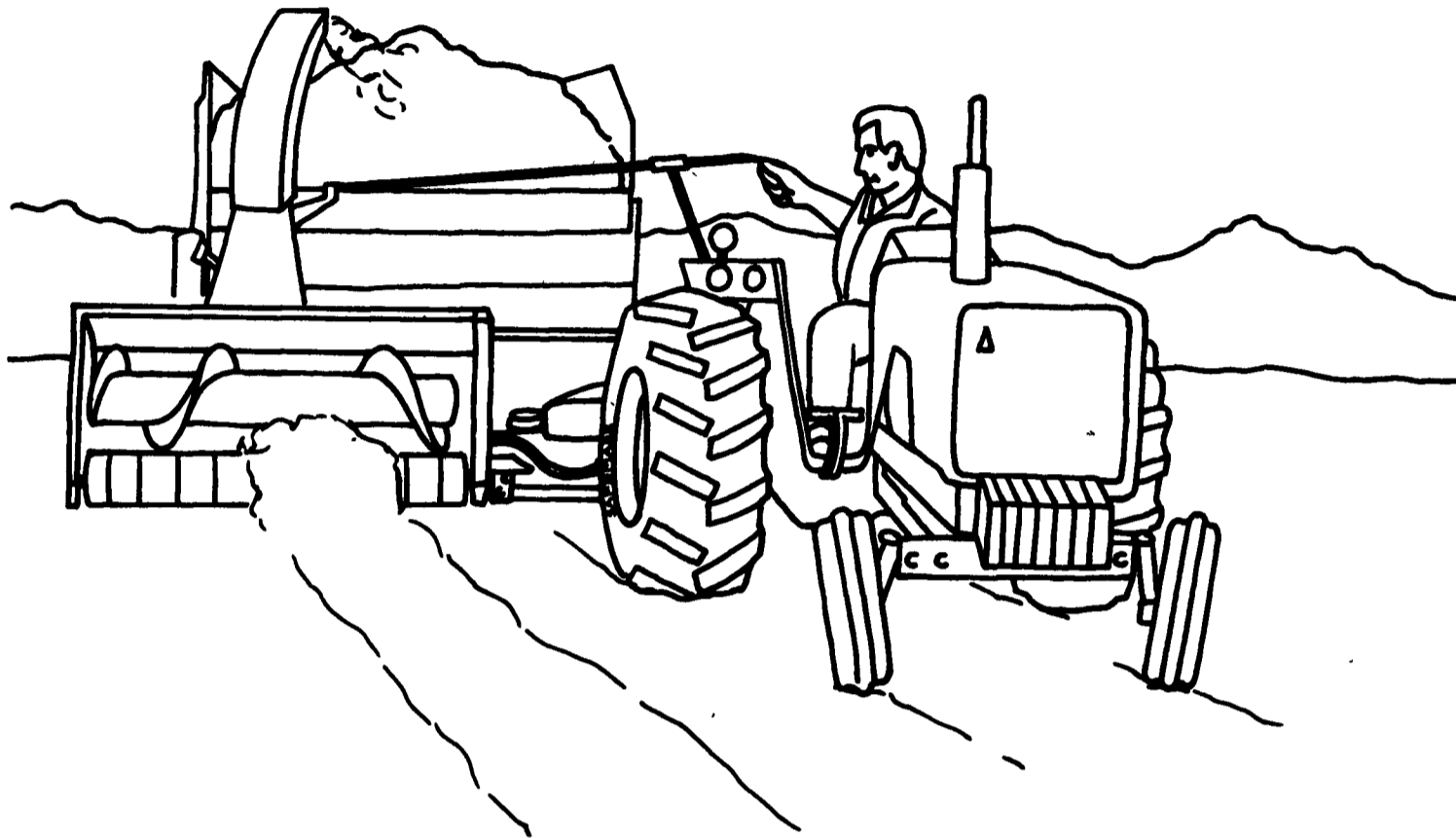
Ellen Brubaker  
Kutztown

Hi! My name is Carol Martin. I am seven-years-old. I have a dog. Her name is Buffy. I have two sisters and three brothers.

I go to Penns Creek School. There are six grades. I'm in second grade. My twin brothers are in third grade. Some of my class is on the honor roll and I am too.

My daddy has 30 cows. One day we went on a picnic and we went on a walk in our woods. When we came back, we saw bear tracks! Last Sunday we got a baby calf. Now, feeding the baby calf is my brother's job. I like to read Kid's Korner every week. It is fun.

Carol Martin  
Middleburg



## The Knock On Woodpeckers

From National Wildlife Magazine  
WASHINGTON, D.C.—  
Woodpeckers, nature's champion chiselers, have whole forests at their disposal -- so why, utility companies want to know, do they

Dear Readers,

This happened one Friday evening. I'm not sure what the date was, but it happened sometime in October. One of our best horses got killed on Route 372, a busy road.

My brother Benuel had wanted to put him in his stall, but just as the horse got loose, he ran down to the road. We didn't think that this would be the last time we would see him run. His name was Tony and he was a strong horse. We still miss him very much.

My name is Sarah Elizabeth. I am in the fifth grade. I go to Highland School. I am 10 years old. My birthday is May 26. I have two brothers Amos, age 14; Benuel, age 12; and four sisters: Elsie Mae, 18; Mary, 7; Malinda, 5; and Anna, 2.

I also have a pet guinea pig named Cindy. She is about three months old now.

With love,  
Sarah Elizabeth,  
c/o Isaac and Lydia Zook,  
Parksburg

pick on utility poles? According to National Wildlife magazine, the restless drillers apparently have found that the wooden columns holding up telephone and power lines are perfect for pecking. Accordingly, the pole-busters have become a peck of trouble.

Birds are launching beak attacks on poles throughout much of America. Of all the damaged high-voltage transmission poles the Alabama Power Company had to replace during a recent three-year period, for example, 42 percent had been damaged by woodpeckers. Yet, it seems, some poles are more popular than others, and the birds can be maddingly particular. Not long ago, South Central Power in rural Ohio had to replace one pole three times, at a cost of \$35,000. Now helicopter crews check the pole every month.

Joe Brown, a transmission inspector for the Florida Power Corporation, thinks the birds' pole-pecking behavior stems from habitat loss. "Woodpeckers prefer large dead trees," he says. "But

Hello! My name is Thelma Nolt. I live on a farm with about 300 dogs, which I help feed. Just today, we fed all the dogs. We have three horses but not cows. We have a cat that is pretty fat. I have twin sisters that are five years old.

Good bye!  
Thelma Nolt

development removes these trees, and the closest thing to a dead tree is a utility pole."

Brown theorizes that some poles stand at junctures along migratory flyways, and that the compulsive percussionists use them as signal drums. Perhaps that explains the birds' fascination with one of his company's poles. In 1967, after replacing the pecked-to-pieces pole twice in nine years, Florida Power coated it with bird repellent. (Use of most chemical repellents has since been discontinued.) Still, the pecking continued. Crews had to replace the pole again the following year, and once more in 1970. Exasperated, they finally put in a steel pole. "We've had to repaint the steel pole three times since then because the woodpeckers still peck at it," says Brown. Meanwhile, two adjacent poles remain mysteriously unpecked.

In some places, the birds present only minor problems. But in Alabama, the Alabama Power Company is fighting an all-out war. Last year, the company spent more than \$1 million replacing over-pecked poles. Now officials estimate that the birds ruin one of their poles every day. "Alabama is a major woodpecker habitat," explains transmission line supervisor Gary McCarthy. Naturally, the Alabama state bird -- the flicker -- is a woodpecker.

According to ornithologist Steven Sibley of Cornell University, woodpeckers are adapting to people in their habitat. During the mating season in the spring, males apparently try to impress females with their noise-making prowess. With fewer available dead trees, they seek out utility poles and

other loud percussives. Says Sibley, "They've discovered that drainpipes and stop signs work even better than dead trees."

Power companies are busy devising defensive strategies. Many wrap their poles in steel or wire mesh. "But if a woodpecker really wants to get at a pole, he can get through that wire mesh," says Alabama Power's Gary McCarthy.

Even pungent wood preservatives seem not to deter the pests. The best defense so far? Concrete poles. "The woodpecker can't alight on them and get a grip," says McCarthy. However, he adds that the company has no plans to start replacing all wooden poles with concrete ones, which are more expensive.

Florida Power's Joe Brown notes that his company has tried tying artificial owls and snakes atop poles to spook woodpeckers, "but the birds soon figure out that it's not the real thing," he says.

Research is under way on ultrasonic repelling devices, though utility officials, respectful of the birds' awesome tenacity, are not optimistic. Many authorities are pinning their hopes on a new chemical repellent called ST 138, which awaits Environmental Protection Agency approval.

A pole belonging to Ohio's South Central Power Company once suffered so many woodpecker attacks that the company finally got permission from the state wildlife department to destroy the offenders. In the end, the idea was ruled out: "That would not be a popular decision," says manager Reno Robinett. "I also felt we should be able to outsmart the birds."

## We Want To Hear From You

Write and tell us about yourself. Do you have any pets? Did something funny or sad happen to you? What do you think of school,

homework and chores?

Send your letters to "Kid's Korner" 1 East Main Street; P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522.

Hi! My name is Ruth Ann Martin. I have five sisters and one brother. My birthday is April 27. I am in grade four. I am 9 years old. We live on a dairy farm. We milk 43 cows.

Ruth Ann Martin  
Newmanstown