

On being a farm wife - And other hazards Joyce Bupp



the hands of man, nor the most sweetly-smelling flower, equals the rich, earthy perfume freed by shiny steel slicing into damp earth. Still, the sharp, clean aroma of fresh soil is but a part of the sensual experience of the planting season. For spring is a theater in the round, and a few seats could possibly provide a better view than that seen from atop a tractor turning and tilling the soft, fresh ground.

Green growth explodes in all directions, carpets of lush grass stretching to the horizon, gently swaying in the wind. Swelling leafbuds color woodlots with misty shades of green and muted red. Dandelions dot fields and fence-row edges, like globs of sunshine carelessly strewn over the landscape.

Robins, blackbirds, sometimes flocks of noisy seagulls, follow the wake of the tillage equipment, feasting on fat worms and grubs exposed by the equipment's passage. While they would flee a human so near on foot, the banqueting birds show little fear of tractor operators, figuring perhaps the object on the seat is just another odd-shaped muffler protruding above the tractor's dusty hood.

A pair of mallards paddles toward the safety of center pond, splitting the blue mirror of the overhead sky and its streaks of mares-tail high ice clouds.

A chilly breeze dances down out of the Northwest, stirring the fragile whips of greening willow trees and infant maple leaves stretching larger with each new dawn.

Clear, brilliant sunshine defies the morning's briskness, pouring warmth into sheltered spots. It sends the cats sprawling out on the blacktop, their backs against the calf pens, to snooze away the hours.

But snoozing now is only for the cats. Warm sunshine and brisk breezes, greening trees and thickening grass stir a primeval, instinctive response to the season. It quickens the pulse of every farmer, as well as many whose livelihood is not tied to tillage of the ground, but whose roots neverthe-

less go deep into Mother Earth.

It is spring. And the soil beckons, singing a powerful, passionate siren song.

The time for tearing down, replacing, rebuilding and servicing is past. Equipment, fueled and greased, with even a fresh coat of paint perhaps, waits poised, field-side. With the turn of a key or push of a button, horsepower springs to throbbing life, surging forward on subtle directions from gearshift and throttle.

And, as moldboard, or curved disk blade, or springy chisel teeth, bite into cool sod or stubble cover, a fragrance, unlike any other, is released which captures the very essence of spring.

Freshly-turned ground. Not the most expensive scent created at

which echo with emptiness.

While the fragrance of freshly turned ground is the very essence of spring, it is also the essence of a fresh start, a new beginning, a renewed hope. It is against this hope that millions of manhours, millions of dollars, millions of acres and millions of seeds are annually pitted against the whims of weather and world markets.

And, it is this essence which keeps farmers, year after year, returning again to work the land they so love.

Kitchen Remodeling

COOPERSBURG (Lehigh) — If you are a homeowner contemplating a kitchen remodeling project, you might be doing yourself a favor to read an informative booklet titled "kitchen cabinet facts" before making any decisions or commitments.

In the booklet, tips and information are presented in a non-technical language to help the consumer avoid common pitfalls and save money when remodeling your kitchen. It opens with a brief discussion of the three kitchen remodeling options available to the homeowner - installing all new cabinets (the most expensive way to go); repainting or refinishing existing cabinets (the least costly);

or the relatively new technique known as cabinet refacing (which lies somewhere in between, cost-wise).

Also included is a section on wood in general, why it is so popular how it is seasoned, and the causes of deterioration. It also provides a list of 24 common woods used in furniture and cabinets, ranging from the very hard to the very soft; answers to some frequently asked questions about cabinets and remodeling, and discusses European design and the various types of cabinet doors.

For a free copy of Kitchen Cabinet Facts write to Kitchenwood Inc., Box 263, Coopersburg, Pa. 18036 or call (215) 282-4400.

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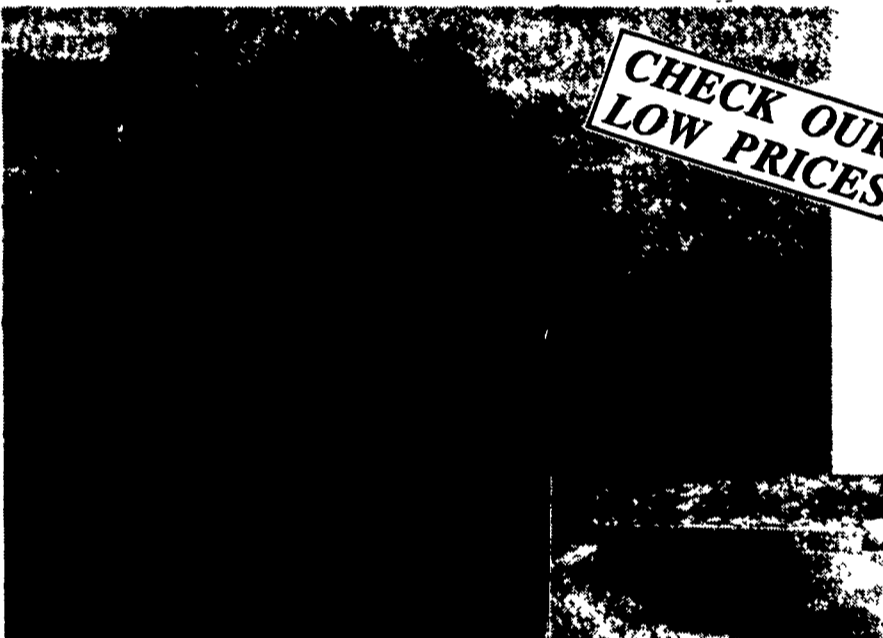
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96	7425	.240 (1/2")	26'- 8"	\$500
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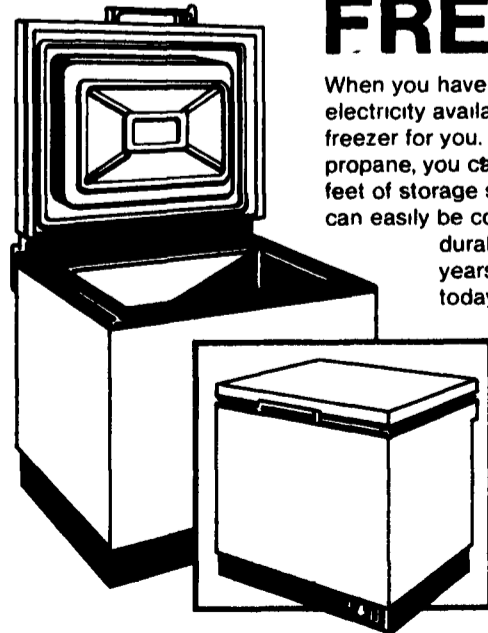
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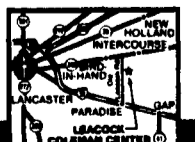
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