

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



Unrest stirred the rural countryside. Where farmers gathered for business and local gossip, the unrest stirred and simmered through ongoing discussion and debate.

Bought goods were costly. Luxuries were almost completely out of reach for much of the rural populace.

Then, the despised possibility of a tax on tea became reality. Under force of the hated tax, the weakening political dam, holding back the churning forces of frustration and rebellion, finally cracked, and then split completely apart.

Angry farmers, hastily organized into a mere resemblance of military militia, but armed with the passion for freedom, fired those first shots that would forever alter history's course.

For freedom.

Our forefathers and mothers forsook that which was close, and

attended church. Large flags fluttered in the late May breeze, while old soldiers stood at attention in uniforms that had seen them through less quiet moments.

Peonies, red and white, almost always bloomed for Memorial Day, along with old-fashioned "blue flags," or iris. They provided bouquets in the traditional patriotic colors for graves of loved ones. "Decoration Day," my mother called it, a term rarely heard any longer for this poignant holiday. And small American flags marked the resting places of those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

For freedom.

Memorial Day is no longer so widely remembered for its noble intention to honor those who carved out the freedoms we far too often take for granted. To be sure, there are still services in cemeteries, and parades in small hometown communities, where local veterans march and remember. Too frequently, few more than those actively participating in such memorial tributes gather to remember.

What do today's youngsters know of Memorial Day? Picnics and beach visits, a three-day weekend from work and school, ball tournaments, swimming pool openings, holiday flea markets and special sales at shopping areas.

Even now, while we routinely take for granted the rights to assemble, to free speech, to vote

comfortable, and familiar for freedom. They bid farewell forever to loved ones and homelands. For freedom.

And, countless have given their lives since that time.

For freedom.

The American Revolution was just the beginning of sacrifice of lives in pursuit of those freedoms which have become synonymous with America. Other bitter conflicts followed — in 1812, the Civil War, Spanish-American fighting, the war to end all wars, World War I, a tragic successor when it didn't, World War II, the Korean conflict, the tragedy of Vietnam.

Among my childhood memories are vivid recollections of clusters of folks, heads bowed, bearing bouquets of spring flowers, gathered in the cemetery of the nearby, small town where we

on those who will govern, thousands openly struggle for the freedoms we sometimes blatantly ignore, sometimes abuse.

Students raised in communistic regimes rally support from masses eager to throw off political and economic depression. Guerilla

warfare erupts in dense jungle terrains in struggles against corrupt dictators.

For freedom.

On this Memorial Day weekend, may we pause to remember, with heartfelt thanks, those who have paid the ultimate price . . . for freedom.

Tioga Co. To Crown Dairy Princess

MANSFIELD (Tioga) — Tioga County, Pennsylvania, will crown their new Dairy Princess at the Dairy Industry Recognition Banquet to be held June 3, at Whitneyville Fairgrounds, 7 p.m. Tickets for the banquet are \$5 per person and available at the Tioga County Extension office, Mansfield Farm & Garden, Formost Ag, Mansfield and Wellsboro Agways or any committee member.

Dairy of Distinction presentations will also be made at the banquet along with the announcement of the winners of the Tioga County Dairy recipe contest.

Dairy Princess candidate is Debra Ann Gibson. Deb is the 19-year-old daughter of Edgar and Joyce Messner of Roaring Branch. Currently a senior at Liberty High School, Deb, plans to attend Williamsport Area Community College in the fall. At WACC she will major in Human Services with plans to work with children with drug and alcohol problems.

Deb's dairy background includes working on the Bergerson Dairy Farm doing relief milking and helping with chores. She also currently owns three dairy animals that are kept at the farm of Jim Welsh.

Debra's school and community activities include FFA president, Yearbook staff, member Student Council, Cheerleader Captain, FHA and Volleyball. Deb has received many awards including: Star Green Hand, Star Chapter Farmer, Most Valuable Cheerleader, 4th at FFA regional public speaker and the Dairy Proficiency Award.

Candidate for Tioga County

Alternate Dairy Princess is Kathy Stamets. Kathy is the 17-year-old daughter of William and Mary Stamets of Osceola. Kathy will be a senior at Elkland Area High School in the fall. Her future plans are to attend college and major in Math Education.

Kathy's family farm, Woody Acres Farm, has 300 acres with Holstein and Brown Swiss cattle.


Kathy's school and community activities include National Honor Society, Elkland Youth Education Association vice president, newspaper editor, band, chorus, 4-H, S.A.D.D., track, class vice president, jazz band.

Terry Kizer, the present Tioga County Dairy Princess, is the daughter of Jim and Sharon Kizer of Tioga. Terry will be starting her freshman year in the fall at Williamsport Community College majoring in Graphic Arts.

Miss Kizer said her most memorable experience as Tioga County Dairy Princess was at the Gettysburg Ski Lodge. According to Terry; "I got a ski lesson for traveling so far to help with the promotion. The owners were really impressed I had come all that way."

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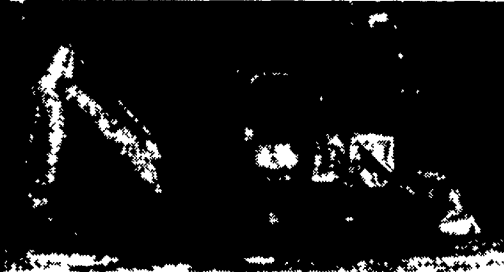
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