

# On being a farm wife - And other hazards Joyce Bupp



For years, they seemed so elusive, so distant, so mysterious. Their overhead passage has always been a seasonal indicator, as much a part of the natural lore as woolly caterpillars and volumes of berries on bushes. In fact, the raucous honking from their V-shaped formations winging over

the farmstead still stir our immediate interest. And always, always, we hoped that a few of the majestic Canada geese might look down with favor onto our meadow and ponds. While a few geese did occasionally take rest stops, even paddling around the water or grazing the

fields nearby for a few hours, none ever stayed for long. So what was wrong with our pond, anyway? Wild mallards come, enjoy our meadow amenities and occasionally raise families. Lately, though, even they have been fewer and fewer in number. One problem we suspected is our abundant fox population. Foxes grin wider than usual at the prospect of a sitting duck - or goose - hunched tight to a nest of eggs. That's the fox equivalent of petty shoplifting. Only surrounded by water would a nesting spot in our pond be relatively safe. An island. What we needed was an island. Now, islands most commonly form from nature when a volcano or earthquake-created cataclysmic event reshapes Mother Nature's face. In the absence - thank goodness! - of either, any island here

was going to have to be manmade. An anchored raft of locust logs was fashioned mid-pond last year - promptly sinking after it had soaked a couple of days. So much for the theory that our common types of wood float. When several Canada geese began hanging out at our pond in recent weeks, and one pair returning daily, the island plan got a jump-start. That first wonderfully-warm Sunday afternoon found us pond side, adding final touches of camouflage brush and branches to our creation. Already in place were four pilings driven into the pond's soft bottom, onto which the wooden-pallet-foundation would be fastened.

Ever try to launch an island? It took the pushing and pulling of both of us to get the first corner over the low bank, at which time it promptly hung up in the mud of the shallow edge and began soaking up water. By the time we'd maneuvered the rest of it onto the water, that first corner was already listing like the gashed side of the Titanic.

Strategy was for The Farmer to paddle the launch craft, the canoe, from the front. I was the towing hookup, hanging onto the heavy, taking-on-water island with my right hand, while trying to remain firmly seated mid-stern in what is not the world's most stable floating object.

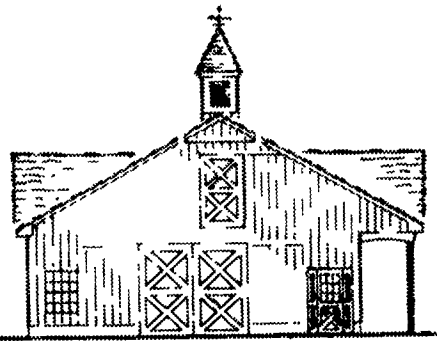
While I didn't completely disbelieve our ability to pull this off, let's just say I removed my non-waterproof watch and laid it on the pond dock before climbing into the canoe. And I hoped none of our neighbors happened to glance out their back windows. After at least an hour of groaning, grunting, leaning, stabilizing, paddling, back-paddling, one claw hammer had sunk to the pond's bottom. It took several trips back bankside to the pickup for more long spikes and haling twine before the island was secured. Actually, it looked more like a duck blind with a front and back porch, rather than something designed to offer a secure nesting spot. The Goose Hotel I dubbed it. Twenty-four hours later, we heard the first returning geese. They glided toward the pond, honked loud and furious, and frantically winged back off in the direction from whence they'd come. In fact, it went several days before a duck or goose would set a single webbed foot even on the bank. This morning, as the sun cast sparkling diamonds across the pond's waters, one of the two geese climbed onto the "hotel" and sat in the sun. Later, as the mallards paddled around its edges, the geese swam by and bullied the smaller ducks away. We think our island has finally been discovered - and is already the site of territorial dispute.

## THE FARM BUILDINGS PLACE

"Designed for your needs, to your specifications"

- Pole Barns • Poultry Houses • Dairy Barns
- Horse Stables • Riding Arenas • Utility Buildings

To help you plan your building and write your own specifications, a professional Snavelly field representative is ready and willing to assist you. For over 100 years Snavelly has satisfied thousands of area farmers. Snavelly's factory fabricated panels, walls, trusses, etc. not only make erection easier and faster but also save you considerable money. Phone us for a no-obligation consultation on your building requirements.



Since 1878

# Snavelly's

We take time to help you build better!

Landisville, 150 Main St., 898-2241

## TUFF CAT



THE TUFF CAT is a complete High Pressure Cleaning System built totally with industrial quality components and offering the optimum in cleaning versatility

- It comes standard with many deluxe features including
- the proven dependability of the Cat Pump SF ceramic plunger pump offering unequalled performance life in its horsepower range
- a custom designed American made, industrial electric motor featuring thermal overload protection with reset button and low amp draw performance
- a 35 foot electrical cord with Ground Fault Current Interrupter protection for maximum safety during operation
- Vari-Nozzle permitting pressure adjustment from high to low as well as from 0 to 60° spray angle
- a 30 foot non-marking high pressure hose with swivel and quick disconnect for convenience in assembly, use and storage
- an adjustable chemical injector for application of various cleaning chemicals
- an easy-to-read glycerine filled pressure gauge to permit pressure adjustments from 100 to 1000 PSI to meet exact spraying or cleaning needs

This is one "Tuff Cat"



2X1000 2 GPM 1000 2X1500 2 GPM 1500 3X1000 3 GPM 1000  
IN STOCK

### DEALERS

**Bh Beiler Hydraulics**  
252 N. Shirk Road  
New Holland, PA 17557  
717-354-6066

**LEINBACH FARM MARKET**  
Rt. 11 N. RD 5, Box 1A  
Shippensburg, PA 17527  
717-532-5511

Dealer Inquiries Call 717-354-6066

## Sewing and Crafts For Profit

DAUPHIN (Dauphin Co.)— Do you have a desire to turn your craft or sewing skills into a business venture? Or are you already working as a home-based sewing or craft business person? If so, "Sewing and Craft For Profit" Seminar will be of interest to you. Joyce Smith, Ohio State University clothing specialist, will speak on "Is Home-Based Business For You?" Also, learn about Taxes and Record Keeping from a representative of H & R Block; and Russ Powell, business management agent of Penn State Cooperative Extension, will help you with Business Resource and Pricing in the morning.

After lunch, L. Jeffrey Patton, marketing agent of Penn State Cooperative Extension, will discuss "Marketing Your Product";

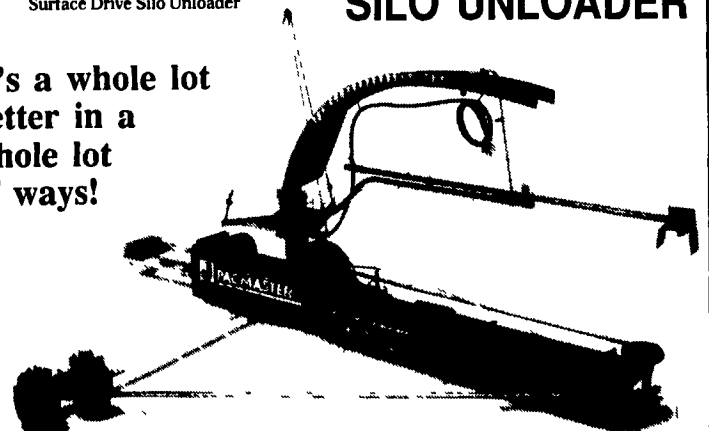
"Legal Issues" by John Becker, attorney of Penn State Cooperative Extension, and a panel discussion of persons currently operating a sewing or craft business will conclude the afternoon's program.

This seminar is sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension and will be held at Penn State, Harrisburg. The one-day seminar is set for Tuesday, May 1, 1990, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Advanced registration by April 20 of \$20 is required. This includes lunch, all materials and .5 Continuing Education Units from Penn State University. For more information, contact the Dauphin County Cooperative Extension Office, 1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin, PA 17018, (717) 921-8803.

## PACMASTER SURFACE DRIVE SILO UNLOADER

Surface Drive Silo Unloader

It's a whole lot better in a whole lot of ways!



New Pacmaster is one sweet unloader — stronger, faster and built to last a long, long time.

**JAMESWAY® QUALITY IN A PACK DRIVE SILO UNLOADER - THAT'S HARD TO BEAT!**

**YOU WON'T BEAT OUR PRICES & SERVICE**



**LAPP'S BARN EQUIPMENT**  
5935 OLD PHILADELPHIA PIKE, GAP, PA 17527  
PHONE: 717-442-8134  
— Radio Dispatched Trucks —