

On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp



There was no sound, no noise, no indication.

Just this . . . sogginess.

Last time I'd reached in under the bathroom sink, the storage space in the cabinet had been dry. So were the mundane household supplies kept handy there - the scouring powder and cleaning rags and scrubbing sponges, the paper towels and boxes of tissues and cakes of soap.

Now the cleaning rags dripped water. Tissue boxes collapsed, damp and limp. Sponges were - well, spongy.

"We have a leak," I muttered to the cat, who waltzed off to curl up in the dry softness of the beanbag chair, while I began removing soggy items from this suddenly-damp part of the house. Quick investigation pinpointed the leak, a misty spray from the cold water pipe.

"We have a leak," I told The Farmer at lunch. Having fallen over the items I'd removed from the swampy area, he already had a hint that something was wrong. And with his years of expertise in repairs of all sorts, big and small,

wet and dry, greasy and otherwise, he immediately addressed the problem.

The clothespin clamped on the leak proved effective, a successful emergency "make-do" until he could get to the hardware store. With brisk wind blowing, bright sunshine and lots of hay still to be harvested, the proper part would be a clothespin so long as it worked.

Even with the cabinet doors propped open to encourage air circulation, the seasonal cool, darkness of our old house nestled under thick, shady trees offered poor drying conditions. When the scent of mildew became thick, The Farmer hauled a window fan down from the attic to hurry up the drying.

Two mornings later, I plopped a load of dirty jeans in the washing machine and headed for calf barn chores. On a return trip about 20 minutes later, the loud sound of a waterfall sent me running to the basement where a half-inch of water covered the concrete and ran in a neat little stream out across the carpet.

Youngsters Age 12 Or Under Can Win Truck

(NAPS) — By sending in a color drawing of a rescue vehicle, your child can win such a truck, not to keep in your driveway, but as a gift to local firefighters to help protect your community.

It's all part of the "Win This Fabulous Rescue Truck For Your Town" Sweepstakes, co-sponsored by Emergency One (E-One) and Navistar International Transportation Corp.

"This contest is designed to

assist local fire departments in their ongoing efforts to promote safety practices among young children," says Jim Schwaller, vice president, sales and marketing for Emergency One. "While there can be only one winner of the rescue truck, all the children who participate are the real winners through their heightened awareness of safety practices."

The sweepstakes promotion invites youngsters 12 years and under (as of July 1, 1993) to enter

the contest by coloring-in a drawing of the giveaway rescue vehicle. Children can enter as many times as they wish. The sweepstakes' prize vehicle is an Emergency One rescue truck mounted on an International 4900 four-door crew cab chassis with a retail value of \$169.00. Entry forms ask children to designate the name of the fire department they want the rescue truck to go to if their name is drawn.

The winning child will receive a VIP ride on the grand prize rescue truck on its way to the youngster's hometown fire station. In addition, the winner and his or her parents will receive an all-expense-paid, three-day, two-night trip to Dallas, Texas. There, the winner will present the promotion rescue truck to his or her local fire chief at the 1993 Fire Rescue International Conference, August 29 to 31, 1993.

In 1992, more than 400,000 contest entries were received. More than 6,000 fire chiefs and officers were in attendance when six-year-old Karen Chandler of Sebastopol, California, presented a rescue vehicle to her hometown fire chief, John Zanzi.

Complete rules and entry forms are available from participating Emergency One and/or International Truck dealers, or by writing E-One: "Rescue Truck For Your Hometown" Sweepstakes, 6105 Factory Road, Crystal Lake, IL 60014. All entries must be post-marked no later than July 9, 1993.

The cold water hose hookup to the washing machine had blown out, spraying the laundry room, washing down the side of the furnace and dampening a large box of powdered detergent before streaming out across the carpet in the adjoining family area and on out the door. (There are times when old houses with leaning floors - especially leaning toward the doors - have distinct advantages.)

This time, The Farmer promptly visited the hardware store, replacing both cold and hot water washing machine hookups, plus getting a part for the bathroom sink. After mop-up, removal of damp shoes and hanging out damp scatter rugs, the larger carpet was propped up to hasten drying. The basement of the old house is even more damp and humid than the first floor and would take forever to dry. I could smell the mildew starting.

Down another floor came the window fan, set up this time by the basement door. It stirred a breeze blowing through two floors of the house - water-cooled, you might say.

The basement carpet was nearly dry when I again reached under the bathroom sink - and found a rerun of sogginess. There had been two choices of a part for the repair - the one we had was the wrong one. And the clothespin was beginning to fail.

Several acres of hay remained to be harvested - while the brisk wind and bright sunshine remained. Threats of clouds and showers hastened haymaking urgency.

The fan is back in front of the bathroom sink. Basement rugs remain a bit damp around the edges. We are still immersed in the fragrance of Eau de Mildew.

And the clothespin supply is running dangerously low.

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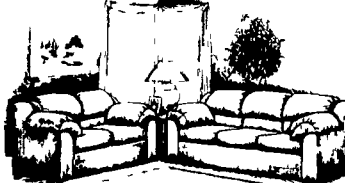
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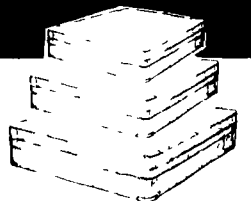


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