

On Being a Farm Wife
(and other hazards)
Joyce Bupp



So many distractions. So little time.

Inside the house, at the office desk, Boss Computer's screen-saver weaves geometric shapes of changing color over the monitor. Waiting. Waiting for me to return, plop into the worn swivel chair and get busy at keyboard.

Deadlines loom. And, as we all know, time waits for no man. Nor for a woman whose mind says, "Get at it!" but whose emotions whine back: "But it's SOOO nice outside!"

Lovely April days tease the inner kid that still lurks inside many of us. We want to be the last

one in from the playground when the bell signals the end of recess. We want to daydream out the window when we're supposed to be finishing our math problems (or farm accounting records).

We want to linger outside as a deliciously-warm dusk falls, listen to the last songs of the day from a high-perched robin and watch the stars begin to twinkle. We want to plead, "Just one more minute?" to a mother calling us to come in and get to our homework.

This computerized taskmaster with its impatient curser line is not a mother waiting, waiting, waiting. It won't ground me from a social

life or withhold my dessert until I finish this chore. Will it? (No, please, not dessert!)

So, reverting to this spring-induced, juvenile behaviour, I excuse myself from Boss Computer, with the reasoning that a load of wet laundry needs line-drying in the fresh air. When the last soggy sock is tacked to the line with a clothespin, I escape to the vegetable garden, where the season's most precious delicacy is just poking out of its bed.

Asparagus. Three years ago, I planted the small patch and have kept it mulched with manure-enriched straw bedding from the calf pens. Those tender, fat, pinkish tips, pushing up through the crumbly soil of the garden, will be plentiful reward for the digging, forking, mulching and weeding.

From there, it's just a few steps back to the perennial border, where mums transplanted by clumps from last year's location look wilted and bedraggled. A thorough, steady, soaking couple-inches of rain would do wonders to perk them up. In fact, a good, soaking, couple of inches of rain would perk up farmers, too — as well as

firefighters who risk their lives battling brush and forest fires.

Several clumps of herbs have wintered well at the next stop, their corner of a raised bed. Perennial oregano sprawled from a single, three-inch flower pot size to a thick ground cover more than a foot-square in size. Gaps between neighboring stalks of thyme, rosemary and parsley can be filled with the seedlings of purple basil started in the greenhouse.

Joining me in my backyard wandering is Monk the cat, also fleeing her responsibility to keep the beanbag chair warm. She rolls on her back in the clump of tender-leaved, catnip mint, a look of pure ecstasy on her furry face.

A scruffy, unplanted corner of ground at the springhouse pleads for some attractive addition to

replace the weed volunteers. Having pondered over an ideal plant for this hot, dry spot for some time, inspiration suddenly strikes. The stately yucca Mom shared with me a few years ago is sending out baby plants. One will find a new home here.

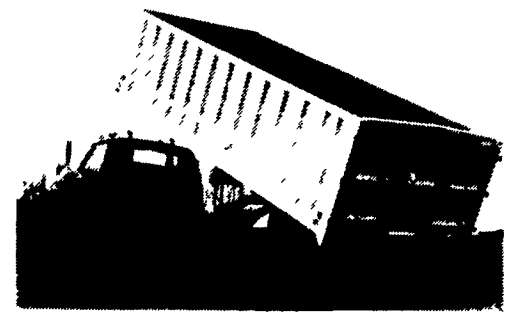
Winds pick up as the sun slips behind a grayish cloud; Monk grumbles that she's chilly. Boss Computer is still there, waiting, waiting, waiting, weaving impatient geometrics.

When the kids were small and enjoyed wandering off on similar jaunts, I kept tabs on their whereabouts with a small cow bell, slipped onto a soft belt tied around their waists.

If Boss Computer threatens me with a bell, I'll yank its software.

MILK. IT DOES A BODY GOOD.™

ALUMINUM GRAIN BODIES & ALUMINUM REPAIRS by



Rugged Strength

Dependable Performance

These ultra-light bodies are designed for strength through engineering, not strength with bulk. For example, a 16' grain body with tailgate and 48" sides weighs only 1490 lbs. complete. We'll build you any length or any side height up to 60".

Also available:

- Double swinging hay hauling tailgate
- Barn door type tailgate
- Slide out cattle chutes
- Diamond flooring
- Pull out panel tailgates
- Any size grain chute

HEWEY WELDING

Box 2312, RD4 Lebanon, PA 17042 (717)867-5222

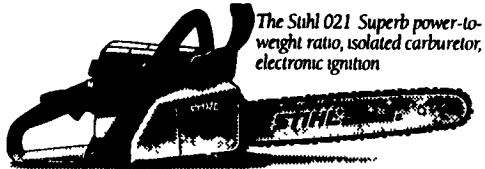
The Chain Saws For People Who Want To Act Like Lumberjacks, Not Work Like Them.

If you know a little about the timber business, you know that Stihl chain saws have been used by professional woodcutters for over sixty years.

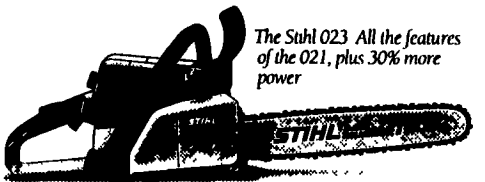
So maybe you think Stihl equipment is "too good" for a suburbanite or farmer or anyone else who needs to cut wood on an occasional basis.

Well, we're happy to tell you that Stihl makes a whole series of chain saws with your needs in mind.

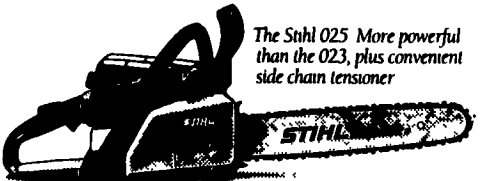
But don't confuse



The Stihl 021 Superb power-to-weight ratio, isolated carburetor, electronic ignition



The Stihl 023 All the features of the 021, plus 30% more power



The Stihl 025 More powerful than the 023, plus convenient side chain tensioner



The Stihl 026 Designed for professional use, or the demanding weekend-woodcutter

them with discount-store chain saws

All Stihl saws are designed for performance, ease of handling and starting, and durability.

Now, about the 026 shown at the bottom: we'll admit we sell this saw to professional woodcutters. But it's also bought by people who simply put a lot of hours on a saw every year.

And by the way, when were you ever unhappy because you bought a product that was too good?

For The Part Of You That Promised You'd Never Compromise.



Available at these servicing dealers

Airville
WOODBINE MOWER & SAW CO.
1268 WOODBINE RD.
717-862-3271

Ephrata, Hershey
HOLLINGER'S LAWN & GARDEN EQUIP.
Ephrata, Pa. 717-738-1131
717-656-2710
Hershey, PA 717-533-4060

Louisville/Carlisle
GUTSHALL'S INC
Loyaville, PA - Carlisle
717-769-4343 717-249-2313

Ronks
A & B SALES & SERVICE
370 Newport Road
2 Miles South of Rt. 23
Along 772 Thru Monterey

Dallastown
TRI-BORO CONCRETE, INC.
435 Locust St.
717-246-3095
1-800-632-9018

Gap
GAP POWER EQUIPMENT
Corner of Rt. 30 & Rt. 897
717-442-8970

Myerstown
EBLING LAWN & GARDEN SERVICE
698 E. Lincoln Ave.
717-866-6720

Schaefferstown
MARTIN HARDWARE & EQUIPMENT CO.
Rt. 501 1 1/2 Miles South of Schaefferstown, PA
717-949-8817

East Earl
GOODS LAWN & GARDEN CENTER
Route 23
717-354-4026 Ext. 34

Hamburg
SHARTLESVILLE FARM SERVICE
RD 1, Box 1392
610-488-1025

Oxford
ENFIELD EQUIPMENT
6600 Limestone Rd.
610-932-8858

Shippensburg
LEINBACH FARM EQUIP.
1120 Rittner Hwy.
717-532-5511

Elizabethtown
MESSICK FARM EQUIPMENT, INC.
Rheems Exit-Rt. 283
Elizabethtown, PA
717-367-1319, 717-653-8867

Hummels Warf
HUMMEL'S TEXACO
Rt. 11 & 15
717-743-7459

Palmyra
HERR'S REPAIR SHOP
RD 2, Box 115A
717-838-1549

Tamaqua
CHARLES S. SNYDER, INC.
RD 3
717-386-5945

Jonestown
BLUE MOUNTAIN ENTERPRISES, INC.
Rt. 72 South
717-865-2994

Palmyra
WEAVER'S LAWN & GARDEN
740 W. Main St
717-838-5999

Hancock, MD
HANCOCK BLOCK TRUE VALUE
220 Fulton St.
301-678-7242

Ephrata
WES STAUFFER ENGINES & EQUIPMENT
23 Pleasant Valley Rd.
717-738-4215

Lititz/Lebanon
BOMBERGER'S LAWN & GARDEN
Lititz: 717-626-3301
Lebanon: 717-272-4155

Reamstown
EAGLE RENTAL CENTER
Rt 272, Reamstown Traffic Light
717-336-3945

Whiteford MD
ENFIELD EQUIPMENT INC.
720 Wheeler School Rd.
301-879-5090

DISTRIBUTED BY KEYSTONE STIHL



Plain Communities Business Exchange

A Monthly Publication Serving Plain Communities Everywhere

✓ **Plain Way of Doin' Business** by Peter Gail, Geauga County Ohio is a well written, informative column featuring different plain businesses each month.

✓ **Tax Talk** — important tax information especially for Plain Businesses written by Certified Public Accountant, Ronald C. Allison.

✓ **Life in the Workplace** — funny adventures told by Jingles the Shop Dog!

✓ **Nature at it's Best** is a lovely, poetic column written by Aunt Sara.

✓ Noble County Ada shares stories about the **Life of a Shop Owner's Wife** in her monthly column.

✓ Gideon Fisher writes about leather and leather products in **Harness Shop Editorial**.

✓ Find out **Whats Happening** in Plain communities everywhere.

✓ Plus interesting old stories about trains, hunting, logging adventures, history and much much more.

✓ More than 100 display & classifieds ads in every issue, advertising all kinds of products & services used in Plain Businesses.

Reasonable Rates for Display and Classified Advertising with free layout and design work

Subscribe Today!

Mail \$15 for 1 year or \$30 for 2 years, with your complete name and address to: PCBE, P.O. Box 328, Dept. D, Lampeter, PA 17537
Phone (717) 295-7667 or Fax (717) 295-7686 for more information