

"Uh, we had some intruders overnight."

My head snaps up from where it was buried in the newspaper, and apprehension makes me shiver in the wake of his announcement. Intruders? Cattle rustlers like those who mde off with heifers many years ago? Or a repeat of our one-ume baling twine thieves? Another passer-by who heisted a bag of corn and a new shove!?

"Oh, there were just a couple of heaters that found a hole in the fence last night."

Intruder is much too nice a word here. Calling escaped heifers intruders is like saying Atilla the Hun was a street vandal or that General Custer and the Indians had a minor disagreement at The Little Big Horn.

Escaped heifers mean a fullscale, major destruction-and-devastation derby. Heifers are like all carefree adolescents. Like kittens unraveling yarn all over the living room floor, or scaling the dining room drapes. Or like puppies that chew up new boots and drag wet wash from the line and through the muddy flower beds.

In other words, what they do, they do with eagerness and abandon And with an unmistakable, undeniable, streak of mischieviousness.

Heifers on the lam all start out the same way: they run. Run, kicking heels and scattering dust. Run, making paths through tail, damp alfalfa, flatteningn stalks of com. Run, through gardens and flowerbeds, across lawns, up and down barn alleyways.

But once they get that out of their systems, heifers usually tend to drift back toward home. Maybe just to see if anyone has noticed. Or, if someone hasn't. And, If someone hasn't, then it's time to get down to some heavy-duty plundering.

Key plundering strategy of our heiters usually centers around the calf nursery and weaned heifer pens and alleyways under the old bank barn. Here, the sweetest grain mixes and select hay are kept stocked ahead. Younger calves often leave some of the molasses-laced grain in their individual buckets and only nibble at hay rations.

After sampling several buckets of leftover feed, plus scattering a few just to see how far the grain flies over the calf nursery floor, they'll move on to hay for dessert. Now, everyone knows that the greenest, sweetest, tastiest hay is always buried smack in the middle of the bale. And there's only one way to get at it.

How heifers can so thoroughly rip, shred and scatter to the winds those snugly-tied bales of hay defies the imagination. Especially when I need a knife to cut the doggone things apart. And, by gosh, when they finally get to the middle, the hay apparently doesn't

## Hans Herr House To Celebrate Harvest With Snitz Fest

WILLOW STREET (Lancaster) — An autumn ride on a horsedrawn Conestoga wagon through the orchard at the Hans Herr House, delicious foods made with apples in the old Pennsylvania German fashion, and demonstrations ranging from native American fish or meat drying to oxenpowered corn-grinding are some of the many highlights awaiting visitors to this year's Snitz Fest at the Hans Herr House and Museum.

The eighth annual event will take place on Saturday, October 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the museum. Nearly 40 historic varieties of apples will be available for sampling, grown right in the orchard on the premises of Lancaster County's oldest existing structure. In addition to

taste all that much better than did those first couple of bites from the outside corners. So it makes sense that it be scattered and strewn to every corner.

Then, like artists signing their work, maurauding bands of renegade heifers leave behind the inevitable scattered residues of manure, more evidence of their rampaging that must be swept, shoveled and forked away.

Even before that clean-up can be accomplished, the shovels, forks and brooms must be retrieved from where they, too, were knocked from their normal places as the renegades partied all night.

Like all adolescents, heifers eventually grow up, settle down (well, most of them) and become reasonably, well-behaved producing members of the milking string.

Just in time for the next batch of renegades to take their places.

the apple-testing table, visitors to Snitz Fest will be able to sample apples in a variety of other forms. Apple butter making, cider pressing, and "snitzing" apples for drying will all be ongoing activities throughout the day. Colonial apple recipes will be used in turning out delicacies from the past at both the raised hearth in the 1719 Herr House and at the outdoor beehive bakeoven.

While focusing primarily on the apple and the impact of its importance upon Lancaster County's first settlers, other aspects of the harvest and the autumn season will be celebrated, as well. Children will enjoy the wide variety of 18th century games to be played. Kids of all ages will want to get on a wagon for a ride through the orchard or around the grounds. Both the 1719 house and 1835 house (across the street) will be open for tours or browsing. The blacksmith shop will be in use, and the smokehouse will emit the good smell of smoked sausage.

Activities to observe include seeing corn husked by hand and shelled with an oxen-powered sheller, sorghum pressing, broommaking using "broom corn," and woodworking skills in the making of miniature wagons. Fabric dyeing and buttermaking add diversity to the demonstrations of life in years gone by.

A new feature this year is the skills of native Americans, who will show fish or meat drying techniques and grind corn into meal. Additional new Snitz Fest activities include Scherenschnitte, an old German papercutting skill used in the making of beautiful designs, and demonstrations of a fencepost-making machine.

Admission to Snitz Fest is \$4.50 for adults and \$1 for children ages 7-12. Snitz Fest is a funfilled educational event sponsored by the Herr House Foundation. The Hans Herr House is located 5 miles south of the city of Lancaster, PA, near the village of Willow Street, just south of Routes US 222 and PA 741 and one mile east of PA 272. For more information, call (717) 464-4438.

## Farm Safety Day Camp

LEWISBURG (Union Co.) — A free farm safety day camp for children ages 8 to 13 is planned for Saturday, October 14, at Beaver Fairgrounds, Beaver Springs, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension, the camp will reinforce the importance of taking responsibility for their own safety, respecting parent's safety

rules, and sharing safety ups with family and friends.

Parents can register their children for the camp by calling the Union County Extension Office at (717) 524-8721. Registrations must be received by October 2.

The free camp includes lunch, farm cap, first aid kit, safety packet, and door prizes. Children under 8 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

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